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English Records of Maratha History
Poona Residency Correspondence

Volume 8

Daulat Rao Sindhia and North
Indian Affairs
1794-1799

Edited by

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Poona Residency Correspondence

General Editors—Sir Jadunath Sarkar and Rao Bahadur G. S. Sardesai

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ERRATA

Page ii, line 23, *for* 6 January *read* 5 January.

Page xvi, lines 16-17 *for* some some detail *read* some certain detail.

Page xvi, line 10 from bottom *for* Telegram *read* Telegraph.

Page xix, line 2, *for* Sep~~t~~ember 12 *read* September 10.

• Page xix, line 26, *for* Jan~~u~~ary 4 *read* January 5.

Page 63, Letter No. 35 and page xxvi *for* 21 September 1796 *read* 21 September 1795.

Page 98 *f.n.*, *for* Claerke *read* Clarke.

Page 253, Letter No. 201, *for* Harington *read* Harrington.

Page 274, right column, line 10, *for* pasifist *read* pacifist.

[*Note.*—Slight misprints of well-known names and words and instances of broken types have not been included here.]

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INTRODUCTION

1. *The characteristic features of this period.*—The nine years that lay between the death of Mahadji Sindhia and the signing of the Treaty of Bassein (1794–1802) were the most momentous in the history of the Maratha State and moved inexorably on to bring about a complete revolution in the destiny of that race. During this interval the centre of gravity of Maratha affairs once more shifted to Puna, and the political life of the Maratha people again revolved within the circle of their homeland.

The first half of this interval gave the Marathas absolute freedom from any foreign threat, thanks to the non-intervention policy of Sir John Shore, who was Governor-General, from October 1793 to March 1798; and they utilised this opportunity to inflict on the “enemy at their elbow” the most signal defeat recorded in the history of Haidarabad (at Kharda, on 11th March 1795). That day marked the *apogee* of Maratha greatness; “Nana Fadnis was now at the summit of prosperity”, (G. Duff.). In this campaign, for the last time in history the *Bhagwa Jhanda* had proudly waved over the armed might of a fully representative and united Maratha nation and achieved a victory which eclipsed the brilliancy even of the Udgir triumph of a generation earlier.

But by the cruel irony of Fate, the victory at Kharda proved to be the beginning of the end of the Peshwas' rule. Seven months after this supreme triumph of Maratha arms and diplomacy, Madhav Rao Narayan committed suicide (27th October 1795) and Nana Fadnis's life's work was undone. Baji Rao Raghunath, the most despicable character in Maratha history, gained the Peshwa's throne. The death of Madhav Rao Narayan was followed by a long period of the most puzzling and disgraceful intrigue and counter-intrigue, diplomatic treachery and double crossing, which festered into murder and pillage, civil war and devastation in the Peshwa's dominions and even in the city of Puna itself. No one, not even the highest feudatories, not even Nana Fadnis himself, could escape this national misery, which was ended only by the loss of political freedom and the imposition of British paramountcy.

The depravity of the leaders' character is most painfully illustrated by the conduct of Nana Fadnis from 1795 to 1799. In the epic struggle with the English from 1775 to 1782 he had been the Father of his Country; but now there was no depth

of meanness and treachery to which he would not stoop in his selfish grasp at power. In this game, however, the younger hand defeated the old one, and Baji Rao II outwitted the Maratha Machiavel. The vices and violent crimes of Ghasiram Kotwal (died 1791), Baji Rao and their humble imitator Sharza Rao Ghatge, turned Puna into a hell in the closing years of the 18th century. Neither rank nor religious sanctity could save any of their victims ; and today in the long retrospect of history, the Treaty of Bassein appears as a divine dispensation which closed an intolerably tragic drama and ushered in a new era in which the great Maratha people could hope for a new life of peace, progress and prosperity. The history of the country during the century and a quarter beginning with the year 1818 proves that it has not been a vain hope. The decadent house of the Mayors of the Palace to the Chhatrapati fell, as it deserved ; but the Maratha people lived, and lived to be the pride and ornament of a modernised India.

Fate seems to have taken a malicious delight in removing all the great men and women of later Maratha history during these few years. In 1794 died Mahadji Sindhia (12 February) and Ladoji Deshmukh (15 April) ; next year Ahalya Bai Holkar (13 August) and Madho Narayan Peshwa (27 October) ; in 1796 Jivva Dada Bakhshi died (6 January) and De Boigne retired from India (February) ; in 1797 Apa Khande Rao closed his long and active life (25 June) and so also did Tukoji Holkar (15 August). The result was that when Wellesley arrived in India in mid 1798, fully prepared and determined to enforce the policy of British paramountcy, he was faced by leaderless States and spiritless peoples in Hindustan and the Deccan alike.

The last hope of any united defence by the Maratha race was destroyed when Baji Rao II set himself to humiliating and robbing his feudatories and former friends : he would put the Gaikwad within his own stomach (*shikam*) as he told Elphinstone, and so too would he treat the South Maratha-country jagirdars ; he would crush the Holkar family, and his bloody attempt to do it only brought Jaswant Rao Holkar to the forefront (in September 1799) and ended in the long run in the downfall of the Peshwai. The evil was aggravated by Daulatrao Sindhia's vain dreams of becoming the Peshwa's Peshwa and of forcing the House of Holkar down to a position of subordinate protection under their hereditary rival for the over-lordship of Malwa and Rajputana. It was a Nana Fadnis shorn of real power, broken down in energy and brain, tortured and robbed, who was restored to the executive headship of the Peshwa's Government on 8th September 1798, just a week after Wellesley had struck

the first of his rapid blows against the Indian Powers. The Nizam was emasculated on 1st September 1798 and Tipu Sultan was annihilated only eight months later. Even a blind man could have foreseen the result of his coming contest with the Marathas, which was to decide the destiny of India.

But the tragic tale of Puna affairs after the death of Madhav Rao Narayan will be read in full detail in the volumes of this series which give the correspondence of the successive Residents, Malet, Palmer and Close. We are concerned here with North Indian affairs only during these years. A most important factor which marked these years off from the decade before was the fact that no Sindhia was present in Hindustan in person from the day in February 1792 when Mahadji left Ujjain for Puna to 19th October 1801 when Daulat Rao crossed the Narmada again to return to his capital. Mahadji did not live to revisit his conquests in the north, and his successor, Daulat Rao, a dull-brained, ignorant, pleasure-seeking youth, lingered on for years in Maharashtra, pursuing the vain dream of controlling the Peshwa's Government.

2. *Administration of Hindustan under Marathas how disturbed.*—Hence, during this long and eventful decade the interests of the House of Sindhia in Hindustan were left to the care of agents, and these agents did not form a happy family. We know from the despatches of the Peshwa's envoy at Delhi that immediately after Mahadji's death a plot was discussed by his Maratha officers in Hindustan to renounce Daulatrao's authority and to set up for themselves, but the plot failed because De Boigne on being approached, put his foot down on it. Indeed, the absentee master's authority in the north during these years was saved through the loyalty and efficiency of his French corps,—commanded successively by De Boigne and Perron. The extensive jagirs,—worth 27 lakhs of rupees a year, in the fertile Gangetic Doab,—which Mahadji had assigned for the support of these troops, were ably managed by the Frenchmen and rapidly increased their yield (to 41 lakhs) from land revenue, industry (especially indigo) and customs, thanks to the unwonted peace which the tract now enjoyed. Their sepoys were very regularly paid and thus it was possible to enforce discipline among them. This military efficiency, built upon the stable basis of financial security,—enabled De Boigne and Perron to collect the due tributes from the Rajput States with tolerable ease and not more than the usual amount of irregularity, and there was, on the whole, no regular trial of arms between the Rajputs and the Marathas from the battle of Merta (1790) to that of Malpura (1800). The local discontent simmered, but did not burst into a flame for one full decade.

In a characteristic letter Perron, when sending a battalion of his sepoys to receive and escort that year's tribute, assures the minister of Kota, "Dear Rao Sahib, these men are *campoo* troops and not Maratha horse. If they exact one Rupee illegally, I shall make amends by paying you two Rupees." (Gulgule Daftar, Persian letter.) This is the legitimate pride of a captain in the discipline of his troops. Face to face with this military power, the helplessness of the Rajput States is well illustrated in Jean Pillet's memoir printed here.

But even in North India, outside the area directly in charge of the French corps, Sindhia's affairs were not successfully or smoothly conducted during his long absence. The reasons were the selfishness, greed and mutual jealousy of his Indian representatives there and their military weakness while the bulk of their master's army was detached to Maharashtra. First and foremost was the case of the guardianship of the city of Delhi and its titular Emperor. Mahadji had not been happy in his choice of a keeper for the blind Shah Alam II. Shah Nizamuddin, the man chosen for his saintly pedigree and hoped for influence over the Muslim nobility and soldiery, enraged all by his insolent pride and harshness of speech (*sakht-goi*) even to the Emperor and the Shahzadas in open darbar. And the contrast between his former beggary by profession and present hauteur and pomposity turned the public contempt against the "Ha'penny Beggar" (*Cowrie Faqir*) as he was popularly called. This man not only brow-beat his imperial ward, but constantly quarrelled with his colleague Ladoji Deshmukh. Things did not improve even when Ladoji died and the Shah left Delhi. For the next keeper of the Delhi fort, Bhau Tatya, defied his master's order to hand over his charge to Perron, and therefore Perron's agent Pedron had to open fire on his colleague before he could enter into his new office (15th October 1798).

When one ministerial faction in the Deccan got hold of young Daulatrao's ears and began to persecute the Shenvi ministers and generals who had served the House of Sindhia so long and so faithfully, its natural repercussion was felt in Hindustan. Lakhwa Dada, the ablest general of Sindhia then living, was driven to rebel in self-defence. The stagnant, placid political life of the portion of Northern India that had been brought under Mahadji's control was broken near the end of this period by the revolt of the Bais (1800), who found a ready ally in Lakhwa Dada. These troubles ended only with the death of Lakhwa Dada on 7th February 1802, a few months before the Treaty of Bassein.

3. *Historical materials available.*—The historian of the period which begins with Mahadji Sindhia's last journey to Puna (1792) is faced with a difficulty he had not known before ; the indigenous sources of information suddenly and completely fail him (especially from February 1794). Khair-Ud-din Allahabadi's copious and graphic memoirs which richly illuminate from personal knowledge (inside all the three camps—the Emperor's, Sindhia's and the British Resident's) the northern career of Mahadji and his relations with the British Government, close with Mahadji's departure for the Deccan, if we except his brief hearsay account of Mahadji's death. No other historian or letter-writer in the Persian language takes his place, though at the end of this century we are assisted by the eulogistic biography of that Pathan soldier of fortune, Amir Khan of Tonk, written by his munshi Basawan Lal, and a very valuable and detailed life of Jaswant Rao Holkar written by Munshi Mohan Singh (1808), both in the Persian language. No French captain of Sindhia or Holkar has cared to write a narrative of his Indian career, such as we owe to Rene Madec and Comte de Modave of a generation earlier. De Boigne's life published from his native city of Chambéry in 1828 and the volume on General Perron written by M. Alfred Martineau (in 1931) are mere compilations from Grant Duff and the English newspapers of that age.

The paucity of original historical materials is almost equally complete in the Marathi language also. The copious and unbroken stream of despatches sent to Puna by the Maratha envoys at the Court of Delhi and the camp of Mahadji Sindhia, which so fully helps us during the period from 1772 to 1791, suddenly ceases after 1792,—with a thin trickle continuing to flow fitfully till 1794. And naturally so, because the Emperor had now passed entirely under Sindhia's control and Mahadji and his successor continued to live in and around Puna for a decade from 1792 onwards. Thus, the Peshwas' Daftar and the Menavali archives alike absolutely dry up after 1794. Our only light in the Marathi language henceforth comes from the historical letters preserved by the South Maratha jagirdars which have been printed by V. V. Khare and which give despatches from Puna (now once more the centre of political movements) and from the armies sent out from that capital. These letters often contain echoes of North-Indian news received there, but no direct *akhbarat* from Hindustan. The letters of the Lad family appended to Rajadhyaksha's *Life of Jivva Dada Bakhshi* give no military or political detail of value ; the Gulgule correspondence deals with money matters only and is too scrappy ; while the Chandrachud

Daftar of the Diwans of Holkar remains still unexplored for the period after Mahadji's death and has probably nothing to yield. A mass of Persian *akhbarat* (news-letters) did reach Puna, but only after 1803; these have been preserved in the Alienation Office, but not yet studied. So, also, the Persian news-letters from Hindustan which were collected by Kale, the Maratha envoy at Haidarabad, though going back to 1772, remain yet to be brought to public light and made available for scholars. The British Museum has three volumes of *Akhbarat*, 1023 folios, covering the period Nov. 1793—Feb. 1796.

Therefore, the records in the English language, embraced in this series, play the most important part in our study of the history of this decade. Indeed, they are indispensable, and they rapidly grow in volume and variety, as Wellesley's policy of expansion develops itself.

Judged by the topics dealt with, the present volume (VIII) is not complete in itself; it must be read along with its continuation, Volume IX, "*Sindhia and North Indian Affairs, 1800-1803*" edited by Dr. Raghubir Sinh. At the same time the reader of these two North-Indian volumes must have at his elbow the Poona despatches of Malet, Palmer and Close (Vols. II, VI and VII), if he is to understand the inner spring of many an action even as regards Hindustan.

4. *British non-intervention between the Nizam and the Marathas, 1795, justified.*—This volume covers nearly the whole of Sir John Shore's Governor-Generalship, which began on 28th October 1793 (when he received charge of the office from Lord Cornwallis) to 7th March 1798, when he handed the Government over to the C.-in-C., Sir Alured Clarke, the officiating Governor General, pending the arrival of Lord Wellesley in Calcutta on 17th May.

Historians of the imperialistic school and admirers of Lord Wellesley have assailed Sir John Shore's statesmanship for his having declined to fight for the Nizam when the latter was attacked by the Marathas in 1795, as narrated in Vol. IV of this series. The following state-papers conclusively prove the justice and wisdom of Shore's policy, which was also the policy of Lord Cornwallis.

At the root of Shore's policy, as of Cornwallis, was the conviction that the E. I. Co.'s army was not strong enough to wage a successful war against the five Maratha Powers when united among themselves and actively allied with Tipu Sultan. In the British Indian army the sepoys then outnumbered the

white troops as six to one, and sometimes as seven to one, while Lord Lake in 1803 regarded the proportion of three to one as the irreducible minimum for safety. Above all, no competent British general was available in India, as Sir John wrote to the Home authorities, and Cornwallis agreed with him. Shore had been within the inner circle of the Governor General's advisers during the crisis of Haidar Ali's invasion of the Carnatic in 1780-1781, when the sole dependable commander Sir Eyre Coote was a dying invalid, and thus Shore had a painful experience of the effect of military disasters on the British position and finances in India. [*Martin, Wellesley's Despatches*, iii. 396 and *Castlereagh's opinion* in iv. 225; *Cornwallis' opinion* in *Ross*, i. 317, 531, iii. 545.]

It was the settled belief of Shore and Cornwallis alike that, if the Marathas were left alone, the incurable internal dissensions among their five branches—the Peshwa, Sindhia, Holkar, Bhonsle, and Gaikwad, and the "corruption, intrigue, and inefficiency of their internal government" would of itself disintegrate their power, and prevent them from becoming a menace to the British. It was only an attack by the English on their just rights or national honour that could unite the five branches and make them dangerous to the E. I. Co.'s position. At the same time, such aggression by the English was sure to drive the Marathas into the arms of Tipu Sultan, who was searching heaven and earth for allies to wreak vengeance on the English for his losses during the war of 1791-1792. The alliance of these two enemies, then the strongest and richest Powers in India,—would be beyond the military and financial strength of the E. I. Co. to cope with.)

This gloomy forecast did not spring from a craven heart, but was "the result of much deliberation on this important subject," as Shore assured Lord Wellesley in March 1798. In the light of history it is justified by the fact that Wellesley could break the Maratha Power only after he had annihilated Tipu and isolated or neutralised three of the Maratha States—the Peshwa, Gaikwad and Holkar, so that he had to take on only the other two at one time.

The brilliant victories of Lake and Arthur Wellesley [in 1803-1804] ought not to throw into oblivion the marvellous diplomatic skill and patience—helped, it may be admitted, by some unforeseen occurrences in the Indian Courts, all tending to benefit the English,—by which this division among England's enemies in India was effected before the actual clash of arms began in August 1803.

The Mysore War of 1791-92 had left a legacy of heavy debt, which Sir John Shore had to shoulder during his *proconsulship* (1793-1798). He had personally known how the war of 1780-1782 against the combined Marathas and Haidar Ali had totally upset the finances of the Indian Government and created a staggering deficit. Therefore he shrank from provoking war in 1795, as Cornwallis did in 1805, on the ground of its being financially unsupportable. (See *Ross, Cornwallis Correspondence*, iii, 544).

In choosing between the Nizam and the Marathas as mutually exclusive allies of the English, Shore (like Cornwallis later) was convinced of the weakness and duplicity of the Haidarabad Government and therefore he made light of its displeasure, as its armed forces were worthless, and sincere and fruitful amity was not to be hoped for from that quarter, to counter-balance the estrangement of the Maratha Powers. Besides, both these Governors General were convinced that the Maratha claims on the Subahdar of the Deccan (which were enforced at the sword's point at Kharda in 1795) were legally just, and left no valid ground for English interference. War provoked with the Marathas in 1795 for propping up a defaulting and shuffling debtor like Nizam Ali Khan, would have been for the English, "worse than a crime, it would have been a blunder."

Weakness and duplicity of the Haidarabad Government.

"I should still be disinclined to run the risk of a war with the Peshwa for the purpose of supporting the tottering fabric of the Nizam's Government, which is ready to fall from its own weakness. The Maratha influence over the Nizam's country is so incorporated with the internal administration that.... the Nizam can hardly be called an independent Prince." (Shore's letter to Henry Dundas, 21 August 1794).

"I feel much indignation at being compelled to overlook the duplicity of the Nizam.... Such an ally is worse than an open foe:—thanks for your diligence and abilities in tracing the foxes, through their windings, to their holes." (Shore's letter to Major W. Kirkpatrick at Haidarabad, 21 November 1796).

"The timidity of the Nizam and the wretched state of his army and his country, do not render his intrigues with the French and Tipu very formidable." (Cornwallis to Henry Dundas, 16 November 1787.)

"The power of the Nizam, as well as his health, is rapidly on the decline....Although I foresee great embarrassment, and the possibility of serious evils from the subversion of the power of the Nizam, I see still greater in an union which would impose upon us the prevention of it. This is the result of much deliberation on this important subject." (Shore to Wellesley, 7th March 1798.)

"I have reason to believe that the authority of the Subah[-dar] of the Deccan over his dominions is approaching fast to the same state of inefficiency and weakness [as the Peshwa's internal government.] In the hope that by degrees we may be able to withdraw ourselves from the disgraceful participation [through the agency of our Residents] in which we should be involved by mixing ourselves in all the intrigues, oppression and chicanery of the native management of distracted and desolated provinces, I have ordered....letters to be addressed to the Residents at the Courts of Haidarabad &c." (Cornwallis to Secret Committee in London, 28th August 1805.)

Cornwallis's non-interventionist attitude during his first Governor Generalship.—"I assure you that no proposition of any interference in the disputes between the Marathas and the Nizam was ever made by me, and that it was the invariable principle of my Government to avoid involving the British Power in the consequences of any internal disputes that might exist either among the Marathas themselves, or between them and the Nizam." (Cornwallis to Sir Arthur Wellesley, 16th August 1805.)

Military weakness of the English in India.—"The officers at the head of the army [in India] should ever be men of capacity, vigour, and experience....I have only to request you will ask Lord Cornwallis's opinion on the abilities of the officers at the head of the armies in Bengal, Madras, and Bombay; and what he supposes our situation would be, if a war were to break out. Let him point out the men capable of conducting it, and possessing the confidence of their brother officers and of the troops in general." (Shore to H. Dundas, January 1794.)

"There is an argument which I have not stated—our means for carrying on a war with Tipu and the Marathas; in which I include the abilities of him who must conduct the war, as well as our resources in men and money. Sir Robert Abercrombie.. as a man, I really esteem: but then a question arises, involving the safety of India, I am bound by duty to consider no qualifications but those which are indispensably wanted at the time.

You know, better than I do, whether he possesses them." (Shore to H. Dundas, 8th March 1795.)

5. *Sindhia's French Generals*.—Benoit de Boigne (a native of Chambery in the Duchy of Savoy) first entered Mahadji Sindhia's army as a recruit in the force of Apa Khande Rao (1785) and shared that general's Bundelkhand campaign (1786–87). As a part of Apa's division, he joined Sindhia's camp at Lalsot, on the eve of the battle known after that place, in June 1787. He had at that time only two trained battalions (total strength 1,300 bayonets) and a few guns under him. A little later he was taken directly under Sindhia, and continued to receive the cost of his troops in cash ; but the payment was, as usual, very irregularly made, his soldiers used to be several months in arrears, and he felt the greatest difficulty in maintaining the full strength and discipline of his troops. After winning the splendid victories of Patan and Merta (1790), he found it easy to convince Mahadji of the value of such disciplined infantry and the necessity of making a permanent and secure provision for their maintenance. On 7th August 1791 he was granted a *jaidad* (fief held on service tenure), by Sindhia under authority of the Emperor, including some 16 parganahs—Bah-Panahat, Jalesar, &c.—in the Agra district, yielding 12 lakhs of rupees a year, for maintaining a disciplined brigade. After his victory over Holkar at Lakheri (29th May 1793) De Boigne was authorised by Mahadji Sindhia to increase his force to three Brigades (24,000 infantry, 2,400 regular cavalry, and 108 guns), and for their support 52 mahals in the Doab,—including Khurja, Aligarh, Firuzabad, Itimadpur (then called Khandauli), Hathras, Palwal &c.—yielding 27 lakhs of rupees annually, were assigned to him. His first *jaidad*, at least many portions of it, were absorbed in this second grant. This was the standard revenue in the official papers, but De Boigne's income soon rose above 27 lakhs. The comparative freedom from war and anarchy which his strong and wise administration ensured to most of the area under him rapidly increased the produce of the soil and he was able to enhance the land revenue assessment by fifty per cent. in 1794. Another great source of his income was indigo manufacture and export trade, both of which had remained undeveloped under the preceding Indian administrators. By employing European lessees, he greatly increased the value of indigo production, and as early as January 1794, De Boigne got three lakhs a year from this source alone. His friendship with the English promoted the trade of his possessions down the Jamuna and the Ganges to Calcutta and Europe. When he left Calcutta for Europe on 2nd September

1796, he carried away with himself a net fortune of £ 400,000,—which at the prevailing rate of exchange, amounted to 32 lakhs of rupees. [Dilliyethil M. R. ii, 27, 95, 96, 85, 90; Delhi Chron. Compton and N. W. P. Gaz. ii, 112 et seq. require correction.]

After De Boigne's resignation, Daulat Rao Sindhia appointed as his successor Perron (original name, Pierre Cuillier) with the same *jaidad*, bearing a nominal revenue of 27 lakhs of rupees. To this Perron made many additions, and the natural development of his estate* greatly increased his income, so that at the beginning of 1802 he was estimated to hold 68 *parganahs* with an income of over 41 lakhs a year. [N. W. P. Gaz. ii. 114. P.R.C. viii, let. 123.]

The various steps in the ascent of Perron can be clearly traced from his Persian seals. In 1790 he became a Captain,—“*az fazl-i-Masiha Kaptan Shuda Perron, 1204*” Hijeri. In 1793 he became a Major,—“*az fazl-i-Masiha Manjar Shuda Perron, 1208*” Hijeri. In 1796 he became a Colonel,—“*Kernel Cuillier, Perron Bahadur, 1211*” without any thanks to the Messiah! Finally in 1798 we find him fully blossomed forth as *Intizam-ud-daulah, Nasir-ul-mulk General Perron Bahadur, Muzaffar Jang, 1213.*”

6. *An estimate of the Maratha Power in Hindustan in 1799.*

[Introduction.—A British military officer, who was anxious to prove the urgent need of increasing the subsidiary cavalry force for protecting the Nawab Wazir's frontier from Allahabad to Hardwar, wrote a very long letter from Oudh in November 1799, in which he gives a detailed and closely reasoned, but rather exaggerated account of the power and resources of Sindhia in North India, but belittles or ignores his inherent weakness. This alarmist review must have found ready acceptance from the new Governor General, Wellesley, who had already made up his mind to uproot the French influence in India by striking at their Indian patrons.—J. Sarkar.]

Extracts.

“But all [Mahadji] Sindhia's ambitious designs were soon after cut short by a premature and unexpected death. His nephew, Daulat Rao Sindhia, succeeded him,—a daring, bold, unprincipled young man, of very considerable ability, and

*“The Doab *parganahs* having been under the management of General Perron, and the others under that of Col. Hession, the administration of both which officers was much superior to that of the native governments” &c. (Collector Ross's report in 1808. N. W. P. Gaz. vii, 520.)

inheriting all his uncle's ambition and thirst for power ; this prince had not long ascended the *masnad*, when the accidental death of the Peshwa opened a wide and promising field to his ambitious views ; and so seducing, as to divert his attention from returning to Hindustan to prosecute his uncle's plans of conquest ; . . . but after a long and arduous struggle finding himself unable to accomplish his views [at Poona], he began at length seriously to turn his thoughts on returning to Hindustan. * * *

" Thus did the enterprising and ambitious Mahadji Sindhia extend the Maratha empire from the Gulf of Cambay, along the sandy deserts, to the Satlej river, the Kumaun hills and the banks of the Ganges in the course of a few years, . . . including three of the principal *subahs* of the Mughal empire, *i.e.*, Delhi, Agra, and Ajmer with part of Lahore, Malwa, and Allahabad. * * * The Maratha footing in these possessions is rendered stable and secure by the total extinction of almost all the principal families by whom they were formerly governed. * * * The old King, Shah Alam, . . . they preserve as a mere pageant, to give gloss and sanction to their proceedings.

(The revenue arising from the conquered territory, at a moderate calculation and allowing for a considerable diminution in consequence of the recent change of masters, must amount to between four and five *krors* of rupees per annum, and of late years it has been increasing. This revenue has enabled the Marathas to raise and maintain near 70 battalions of sepoys, which are formed, armed, clothed and disciplined like the Company's corps. They are commanded by European officers, of whom the greater number are Frenchmen and foreigners ; and to each battalion four field pieces (brass six pounders) are generally attached, with a necessary proportion of ammunition and stores. Their battering cannon are still more numerous than their field pieces, and including mortars and howitzers, the whole of the ordnance they have in Hindustan, will amount to from seven to eight hundred pieces. The cavalry they maintain in this country, of all descriptions, exceed eighty thousand.) * * *

" General Perron, a French officer of great experience and consummate abilities, both as a statesman and soldier, represents Daulat Rao Sindhia in Hindustan, and is invested with the most full and absolute authority over every department of the government. This power he exercises with great moderation, and at the same time with a degree of judgment and energy that evince very superior talents. Amongst his European officers, none have a character for any superior capacity, although very good soldiers ; yet having risen from very low situations

and not having the advantages of education, none of them have displayed any abilities out of their professional line. But this deficiency in his officers he may (and no doubt will) easily remedy as soon as peace takes place in Europe; when innumerable military adventurers will flock to his standard, qualified for the highest situations, civil or military*; . . . so that ere long we may expect to see the northern parts of Hindustan swarming with needy and intriguing Frenchmen.

“ Their cavalry, though far from respectable as to order and discipline, are still from their numbers and mode of warfare, capable of doing infinite mischief, when opposed by infantry alone, or when opposed by infantry slenderly supported with cavalry. Their system is not to fight, or to risk the loss of a man or horse, unless success be almost certain . . . They can quickly spread over an open country and lay it waste with fire and sword, and as quickly retire with their booty. The destruction caused by the movement of a Maratha army through a country and the extent to which it spreads in all directions . . . has, not unaptly, been compared to a flight of locusts which devours everything green, and leaves naught behind but a dreary waste. Every Maratha army that enters an enemy's country, is attended by several bodies of Pindaris, which consist of three, four, or five thousand men each, mounted on an inferior kind of horses that are very hardy and very durable. They . . . are plunderers; they serve without pay; but the chief at the head of each body of them commonly receives a sum of money at the commencement of a campaign, to enable him to collect, mount, and equip his followers. For the division of the spoil, regular rules are established, which they are seldom known to transgress.” (*Asiatic Annual Register* for 1804.)

7. *The inherent weakness of Sindhia's power*, — Sir John Shore, when laying down the office of Governor-General, on 7th March 1798, addressed a voluminous letter to his successor, Lord Mornington (better known as Marquess Wellesley), from which the following extract is taken :

“ The ambition of Sindhia appears unbounded; and in prosecuting the dictates of it, he has equally appealed to treachery

* The above forecast was almost verified when, after the Peace of Amiens, the French frigate *La Belle Poule* arrived at Pondicherry on 15th June 1803 and landed M. Binot and a detachment of 160 French troops, while on 11th July Admiral De Caen arrived off the same port with a French squadron having on board 600 to 700 European troops. These were regular troops sent out by Napoleon. Martin, *Wellesley Despatches*. iii, 658-660. J.S.]

and violence. His power is, in fact, a military usurpation ; which, however irresistible it is at present, may be shaken or subverted by the same treachery and ambition in those by whose assistance it has been established. The Maratha chieftain who commands the army of Sindhia in Hindustan, Ambaji [Inglé], is not without apprehension of his master ; and he made some indirect overtures to me, for an eventual union with the Company, against the apprehended violence of his master. The Rajah of Berar submits to the usurpations of Sindhia from inability to resist them only ; and the number of Maratha chieftains who have been degraded or ill-treated by him would probably avail themselves of any fair opportunity for gratifying their resentment, or to re-establish themselves. It will require no common abilities in Sindhia to render his present power solid and permanent, and any severe misfortune to him would probably be succeeded by convulsions which might shake his power in Hindustan to its foundation. The Rajahs of Jaipur and Jodhpur and many others would probably seize the opportunity of shaking off the Maratha yoke : and if Sindhia should ever provoke a contest with the Company, much advantage, I am convinced, might be obtained from their assistance." [Lord Teignmouth, i. 466.]

Wellesley wrote to H. Dundas (President of the Board of Control for Indian affairs, in London), on 23rd February 1798,—
 "Sindhia employs about 20,000 sepoy's disciplined by Europeans or Americans. The commander is named Perron, a Frenchman ; most of the officers are British subjects ; the disposition of its officers is said to be much more favourable to the British than to the French interests." (Martin, *Wellesley Despatches*, i. 15.)

8. *Capture of Delhi fort by Perron's agent and some other developments in 1798-99.*—"The Maratha [Bhau Tatya] who commanded in the fort, caught the general spirit of revolt and rebelled from his subjection to Sindhia and was promised assistance from other disaffected chiefs. The Prince (i.e., D. R. S.) sent repeated orders to General Perron to invest the fort, and use every vigorous means to possess it.

"The General, from that amiable humanity which is a noble trait in his character, endeavoured to avoid recourse to hostile measures in regard to the old King [Shah Alam II], the numerous princes and princesses who are detained in the fort.... Though the troops in the fort, amounting to 600, were debarred

from all exterior supplies of provisions, yet General Perron ordered that the royal persons should be amply supplied, and their provisions pass unmolested....

“The fort was invested by five battalions (two of them from Col. Sutherland’s brigade), and a slight fire kept up for a few days, to intimidate the qiladar, which produced the effect of a surrender : there were five guns in the fort, and the killed and wounded of the besiegers were trifling.....

“When every preparation was ready for a breach and escalade, the qiladar began a *mamlat* (negociation) which terminated in the capitulation of the fort on the 15th October 1798, after a siege of 19 days. The terms were brief—the qiladar had permission to go unmolested wherever he pleased, and his troops were to receive from us the arrears of pay due to them.” [From two letters written by English officers of Perron’s army, dated Delhi, 18th October, and Mathura 19th October 1798, in *Asiatic Annual Register* for 1799.]

The Persian ms., *Delhi Chronicle*, states,—5th October 1798,—“Pedron Sahib Firingi who had come from Koil (Aligarh) for expelling Bhau Tatya, the dismissed qiladar of Delhi from that fort, after having dug trenches on all four sides of it, fired his guns. Many Telingas of the battalions of that Firingi were killed by cannon balls. 14th October,—Bhau Tatya, through the mediation of Sayyid Raza Khan, issued from the fort and halted in the mansion of Safdar Jang, and the qiladar appointed by Perron went inside.” [My ms.]

A letter from Mathura dated the 7th December 1798, mentions that Zaman Shah had advanced seven *kos* from Lahore ; that the Maratha army were preparing to oppose him ; the women were ordered to quit the camp [Perron’s] in forty-eight hours ; the country was in much confusion, the inhabitants retiring with their families and property to the fortified towns. [*Asiatic Annual Register* for 1799.]

Accounts [received in Calcutta in March 1799] state that Mons. Dudreneque with 8,000 troops, including his own brigade, attacked Jaswant Rao Holkar, who had an army of 14,000 men, totally defeated him, and took his guns and baggage. M. Dudreneque speaks highly in praise of the exertions of Messrs. Plumet and Da Costa, two officers under his command, on this occasion.” [*Asiatic Annual Register* for 1799. This was the battle of Chauli Maheshwar, described in Mohan Singh’s Persian history of Jaswant Rao Holkar, my ms., pp. 93-97.]

9. *Reaction to Daulat Rao's seizure of Nana Fadnis. The Bais distrust him.*—"After solemn asseverations and the ratification of a treaty of peace and amity between Sindhia and Nana Fadnis, in which a Major Filoze (who commands four battalions, composing Sindhia's bodyguard) was not only personally concerned, but of which Major Filoze guaranteed the validity,....Nana visited Sindhia on the 20th Rajab [8th January 1798] without fear or anxiety, and was treacherously seized by two battalions of Major Filoze, and imprisoned."

Copy of a letter from General Raymond [of the Nizam's army] to Major Filoze, dated 13th January 1798, which was intercepted and presented to Daulat Rao Sindhia.

"Sir, It is a long time since circumstances have permitted me to recall myself to your remembrance. What I have just learnt of the seizure of Balaji Pandit [*i.e.*, Nana Fadnis], offers reflections which induce me to write to you, to give [me] some detail of the affair....The report which prevails at present is, that this unfortunate person has been arrested, contrary to the rights of men, and to the clauses of a treaty of which you were the security.

"I have no other interest in speaking of this, but that which I take for every European, whose reputation is dear to me,—for we have not yet had an example of European officers having falsified their oaths....If your credit or your rights (since you are the guarantee of the treaty) can contribute towards it,—if you are able to effect this liberty [*i.e.*, liberation of Nana Fadnis],....I am not able to calculate the honour that this proceeding will do to you on one side, and the great advantages you will derive from it on the other. If you can enter into my views, I will be able to grant you one-fourth more than all you have with Sindhia, and a *jagir* of one *lakh* of rupees a year; and I will be shortly on the frontiers, when we shall be able to keep up a correspondence. *Raymond. P.S.* Burn my letter, if it should not suit you—but write to me." [From the *Indian Telegram*, as quoted in the *Asiatic Annual Register* for 1799.]

Poona news of 11th August 1798.—Shrimant Bahadur [Baji Rao II] addressed a letter to Daulat Rao Sindhia, of which the following is an extract: "What does it avail that you should write to me continually to be the mediator between you and the Bais? You, on the one hand, do not receive my counsel, nor do the Bais listen to my advice. Nevertheless, I once more observe that if you desire to have the former good understanding restored between you and them, first send to them by Raji

Patil, all their jewels that are in your possession, then inquire their terms of reconciliation." [*Asiatic An. Reg.* for 1799.]

10. *The rebellion and capture of Wazir Ali.*—On the death of Asaf-ud-daulah, 21st September 1797, he was succeeded as Nawab Wazir of Oudh by Wazir Ali, his favourite son. But within four months he betrayed symptoms of a ferocious, sanguinary and treacherous disposition, accompanied by extraordinary boldness and activity against the English. The Governor-General, Sir John Shore, visited Lucknow and on being convinced by the Dowager Begam (the mother of Asaf-ud-daulah) about the illegitimacy of Wazir Ali, deposed him and put the dead Nawab's brother Sadat Ali on the throne (21st January 1798). Wazir Ali was permitted to live at Benares on a large pension (one and a half lakhs of rupees), in Madhoda's garden. Here he began to organise a conspiracy against the E. I. Co. and sent secret agents to Zaman Shah of Kabul, Ambaji Ingle (Sindhia's agent at Mathura) and other enemies of the English, to form an alliance for recovering the throne of Oudh.

The new Governor-General, Lord Wellesley, decided to remove Wazir Ali to Calcutta, as Benares being on the very frontier of Oudh, made it very easy for him to intrigue with rebellious elements in that kingdom. This order was communicated to Wazir Ali by Mr. G. F. Cherry, the Political Agent to the Governor General at Benares. The ex-Nawab, after many angry protests, pretended to agree. But on the 14th of January 1799, he sought an interview with Mr. Cherry, at his residence, the Nandeshwar House, and was hospitably received. Admitted to Mr. Cherry's presence, accompanied by his friends Waris Ali, Izzat Ali and Azhar Ali (the father-in-law of Izzat Ali), and four armed followers, he during the conversation made a treacherous attack upon the English officers and murdered Mr. Cherry, Mr. R. Evans (a young Private Secretary), and Captain E. S. Conway who was then living at Mr. Cherry's house. Their subsequent attack on Mr. Samuel Davis, the Judge and Magistrate of Benares, failed, as he defended himself and his wife and two children by taking refuge on the terraced roof of his house, and guarding the trap door at the top of the narrow winding stair-case, with a long hog-spear, which his assailants could not overcome. A general attack was made upon the Europeans in Benares, among the victims being Robert Graham, a young civilian, and Mr. E. Hill, an indigo planter. Mountstuart Elphinstone escaped on a fleet horse.

But on British military forces arriving, Wazir Ali fled northwards to Butwal (now in Nepal territory) and began to levy troops for a war with the English. After descending into the plains next month, he had some unsuccessful skirmishes with the Company's troops in Gorakhpur, and after rapid and at first undetected movements, sought asylum in the Jaipur State. When the British Government demanded his extradition for trying and putting him to death for his murders, Rajah Sawai Pratap Singh pointed out that it was incompatible with the honour of his house and the Hindu ideas of duty to surrender a suppliant where his life would be taken. After long discussions and exasperating delays, Col. Collins secured the extradition of Wazir Ali, on condition that his life would be spared but he would be kept in prison without chains. The culprit was surrendered on 2nd December 1799 and brought back to British India, and confined in Fort William, Calcutta, where he died in May 1817 at the age of 36 years. His portrait is given in *Bengal : Past and Present*, Vol. IX, p. 76.

"Hakim Sheweir" of these records, was a Portuguese physician named Xavier de Silva Leitao; his father Pedro de Silva Leitao was a doctor and scientist of Portugal, who had accompanied Pere Manoel de Figueiredo to Jaipur, (1735) when the latter was deputed by the King of Portugal to the Court of Sawai Jai Singh II, at that Rajah's request, to assist him in his astronomical studies. This family was settled in the Jaipur Kingdom in the enjoyment of a jagir, which still continues. Xavier de Silva was a physician, an influential courtier and minister, and superintendent of the State armoury and artillery, as well as of Jai Singh's famous observatory. His daughter was married to Thomas Legge, an Irish adventurer serving in the Jaipur army. The Hakim died in 1817.

Jadunath Sarkar.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1787** October 15 . W. Palmer succeeds W. Kirkpatrick as Resident with Sindhia.
- 1790** June 20 . Battle of Patan. September 12, Battle of Merta.
 November 24 . Rao Rajah Pratap S. of Macheri dies, Bakhtawar S. succeeds.
- 1792** February 12 . Mahadji Sindhia leaves Ujjain for Poona, where arrives 11 June.
 „ 22 . . Tipu Sultan agrees to make Treaty of Seringapatam with Cornwallis and allies.
- 1793** May 19 . Timur Shah Durrani dies, Zaman Sh. succeeds, at Kabul.
 „ 29 . At Lakheri, DeBoigne defeats Holkar.
 July 7 . Bijay S. of Jodhpur dies, Bhim S. succeeds.
 October 28 . Cornwallis leaves India, Sir John Shore, Governor General.
- 1794** January 13 . DeBoigne interviews Shah Alam II.
 February 12 . Mahadji Sindhia dies near Poona. Daulat Rao recognised as his successor, March 3.
 April 15 . Ladoji Deshmukh Sitole, Governor of Delhi, dies.
- 1795** February 8 . Lakhwa Dada and Jagu Bapu interview Shah Alam.
 March 11 . Nizam Ali defeated at Kharda, signs convention on 10 April.
 „ Palmer visits Lakhwa's camp, Mathura, *en route* to Delhi.
 April 18 . Palmer has audience of Shah Alam.
 May 27 . Kumar Bhawani S. becomes Qiladar of Delhi fort.
 August . Lakhwa Dada captures Sabalgarh in Kerauli.
 „ 13 . Ahalya Bai dies, Tukoji Holkar succeeds.
 October . Lakhwa captures Narwar.
 „ 12 . Begam Samru imprisoned by her troops; Zafar Yab Kh. seizes power.
 „ 27 . Peshwa Madhav Rao II, dies. Succession kept in abeyance on account of disputes.
- 1796** January 4 . Jiva Dada Bakhshi dies.
 „ 22 . Prince Sikandar Shukoh flees away from Delhi.
 February . DeBoigne retires from Sindhia's army. Reaches London in January 1797.
 March 21 . Nana Fadnis flees from Poona.
 „ 24 . Daulat Rao arrives in Poona.
 May 8 . Baji Rao II arrested by Daulat Rao.
 „ 25 . Chimaji installed as Peshwa.
 „ . Lakhwa attacks Datia Rajah.
 July 5 . Daulat Rao appoints Jaswant Sindhia as Subahdar of Delhi *vice* Shah Nizam-ud-din, who is arrested by Madho R. Phalke.
 October 1 . Palmer arrives in Lakhwa's camp.
 „ . Rampur Rohillas break into Saharanpur, against Marathas.
 „ . Balu Tatya, diwan, arrested by Daulat Rao.
 „ 28 . Zaman Sh. starts from Peshawar *en route* to Lahore.
 November 8 . Lakhwa flees from his camp at Gopalgarh to Oudh, but is recalled by Daulat Rao after a month.
 „ 25 . Nana Fadnis returns to Poona.
 December 5 . Baji Rao II, installed as Peshwa.

- 1797** January Zaman Sh. occupies Lahore, leaves for Kabul in February.
 February 5 Shaikh Haji appointed subahdar of Delhi *vice* Jaswant Sindhia.
 June 25 Apa Khande Rao dies, his nephew Vaman Rao succeeds.
 August 15 Tukoji Holkar dies at Poona; Kashi Rao succeeds.
 „ 22 Perron leaves Poona for Hindustan.
 September 14 Battle of Bhamburda (Poona); Daulat Rao defeats and slays Malhar Holkar.
 „ 21 Asaf-ud-daulah dies, Wazir Ali succeeds as Nawab of Oudh.
 „ Paris Bradshaw officiating as Resident at Fathgarh *vice* Palmer, on leave before joining new post at Poona.
 November 19 Palmer leaves Kalpi for Poona.
- 1798** January 8 Daulat Rao arrests Nana Fadnis.
 „ 21 Wazir Ali deposed, Sadat Ali made Nawab of Oudh.
 c February 20 Battle between George Thomas and Jaipur army under Rodoji Khawas.
 „ 26 Daulat Rao marries Baiza Bai, daughter of Sharza Rao Ghatge.
 March 7 Sir John Shore leaves India. Sir Alured Clarke acting G. G.
 „ 14 Bapu Sindhia arrests Lakhwa and Jagu Bapu by order of Daulat Rao.
 „ 22 Palmer joins his post at Poona as Resident with Peshwa.
 „ 25 General Raymond dies at Haidarabad.
 May 15 Mahadji Sindhia's widows (the Bais) driven into war with Daulat Rao.
 „ 17 Lord Mornington (Wellesley) lands in Calcutta as Governor General.
 June 2 Shah Nizam-ud-din's son appointed subahdar of Delhi *vice* Shaikh Haji.
 July 15 Nana Fadnis released from confinement at Ahmadnagar, proceeds to Poona.
 „ 25 Daulat Rao arrests Sharza Rao Ghatge, Fakirji Gadhwe and Yado Bhaskar.
 August 5 „ Jagu Bapu escapes from confinement, Lakhwa is released on 8th August; both of them declare for the Bais against Daulat Rao.
 September 1 „ Nizam Ali dismisses French officers and admits British troops.
 „ 8 „ Nana Fadnis reappointed as Peshwa's prime minister.
 October 3 „ Zaman Shah's army crosses at Attock into the Punjab.
 „ 5 „ Pedron begins siege of Delhi fort against Bhau Tatya's deputy Bhau Bhaskar who yields fort on 14th Oct.
 „ 10 „ Col. Collins assumes charge as Resident with Sindhia, at Fathgarh.
 c November 2 „ Bala Rao Inglé defeats Afghans in Bhopal.
 „ „ Zaman Shah reaches Lahore and halts; leaves for Peshawar on 4, January.
 c December 15 „ Bala Rao Inglé recovers Ujjain from partisans of the Bais.
- 1799** January 4 „ Aba Chitnis becomes Sindhia's chief minister, *vice* Baloba Tatya.
 „ 14 „ Wazir Ali massacres Mr. Cherry and other Europeans of Benares.
 February 3 „ Wellesley declares war on Tipu Sultan.
 c March 1 „ Dudrenec defeats Jaswant Holkar at Chauhi-Maheshwar.
 „ 8 „ Jagu Bapu defeats Bapu Sindhia and Satvaji Patil near Raghogarh.
 „ „ Perron lays siege to Agra Fort (which falls on 16th April) and Aligarh (evacuated on 27th April.)
 April 12 „ Daulat Rao releases Baloba Tatya and reinstates him as minister.
 May 4 „ Seringapatam stormed, Tipu slain.
 „ 15 „ Jaswant Holkar investing Ujjain, but retires soon afterwards.
 „ 27 „ Daulat Rao makes peace with Lakhwa.
 June 20 „ Ainbaji and Perron renew hostilities against Lakhwa and the Bais' party, but make terms in July.
 June 23 „ Wazir Ali arrives at Jaipur.

- 1799 July .. Jaswant Holkar takes Bala Rao Ingle into his pay and threatens Kota for contribution.
- July 7 .. Ranjit Singh seizes Lahore.
- October 20 .. Perron's army encamps at Malpura.
- .. 25 .. Daulat Rao reappoints Baloba Tatya as Prime minister *vice* Babu Rao Angró, and publicly proclaims Lakhwa as his supreme agent in North India. •
- December 2 .. Wazir Ali is surrendered to Collins, brought to Fathgarh on 23rd.
- .. 5 .. Bogus Ghulam Qadir Rohilla captures Saharanpur from Marathas.
- .. 24 .. Perron's officer, Lewis Smith, defeats Rohillas and recovers Saharanpur.
- 1800 January .. Maratha generals hired on both sides in Bhopal civil war.
- March 13 .. Nana Fadnis dies.
- April 15 .. Jaipur army defeated at Malpura by Perron's troops.
- October 18 .. Baloba Tatya dies.
- 1801 October 19 .. Daulat Rao Sindhia crosses the Narmada on return to Malwa.
- 1802 February 7 .. Lakhwa Dada dies.
- December 31 .. Peshwa Baji Rao II signs Treaty of Bassein.

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Daulat Rao Sindhia And North Indian Affairs
(1794—1799)

SECTION 1

Rajputana in 1794-95

NO. 1—The Condition of Rajputana and the Rajputs in 1794.

FROM—J. PILLET, CAPTAIN IN JAIPUR,

TO—COLONEL JOHN MURRAY, MILITARY AUDITOR GENERAL BENGAL.

Jaipur, c June 1794.

[*Note.*—J. Pillet was a French military adventurer who came out to India in 1769, and in 1789 passed into the service of the Rajah of Jaipur. We find him a Captain of Rene Madec's corps in 1775, and he continued in that force when it was sold by Madec to the Rana of Gohad in May 1777. (See E. Barbe's *Le Nabab Rene Madec*, pp. 234 and 243.) As a loyal friend of the Jaipur Rajah, Sawai Pratap Singh, he begged for a protective alliance between the British Indian Government and the Jaipur State, for the purpose of expelling the Marathas from North India, in the following letter, to which a historical and descriptive memoir on Jaipur and its people was attached (in the French language) and which was addressed to Colonel John Murray. My translation has been made from an execrably bad copy of this letter and memoir, preserved in India Office (London) Home Miscellaneous Volume 388 (8). A short account of J. Pillet will also be found in ms. 613 (1) of the same series in the I.O.L.—Jadunath Sarkar.]

Sir,

It appeared to me that you desired to know about this Court more fully than you had been able to do in the course of our conversation on this head during the short stay that you made here. I am going to send you what I know about it, the more willingly because if the words have not been well composed I have applied myself to adorning my discourse with the frankest truthfulness,—in order that it may be the more agreeable to you and may be able to enlist (the sympathies of) those who may find any interest in this country, for stabilising it. (I have written this account) as much as it was possible, for the more than twenty years that I have heard accounts of it and the nearly six years during which I have verified these

accounts, to enable me to make it. (I have done this) as much for giving you pleasure as to make you know that the Prince whom I serve is very unfortunate, considering his personal qualities, his rank, and his age. Not to weary you much, I have briefly treated of what may interest you with regard to him. And if I do not succeed in satisfying you this time, I undertake to supplement it afterwards by procuring for you his history which I am causing to be extracted from his (Court) annals,*—a work, which, however full of absurdities and incredible nonsense, cannot but be very curious and capable of supplying the facts needed for knowing this country and also those of all the Rajahs who were, or who are, his allies.

Meanwhile, before accomplishing this design,—which will have its merit if it is well executed by the old compiler to whom I have entrusted the work of it and who joins to great erudition a vast knowledge of this Court where he has served in distinguished posts,—I shall precede it with my ideas on the general system of this State, the Government, the character of its subjects, its revenue, its resources, its condition, past, present and future.

Memoir on Jaipur

The Court of Jaipur, by its assiduity and the services which it rendered to that of Delhi by contributing to its strength, had the precedence and the right of mediation above all the other Indian Courts before the Mughal Emperor.....

Maharajah Sawai Jai Singh raised it to the highest splendour. His dominions exceed one Kror (of Rupees in revenue), and it used to have much more, as much land have been let on lease for entertaining the troops which it used to keep constantly for the service of the Emperor. The Subah of Agra was annexed to him, with Mathura and other concessions. He had under his power more than 75 thousand cavalry, mostly men of his clan; his State was very flourishing and his finances in the same (prosperous) condition; all his subjects submitted to the greatest obedience and his enemies trembling: He had a taste for the arts and the sciences, and established at home all the most lucrative manufactures, and sought out learned men; he was known to all and he has left to posterity many monuments of his grandeur and of his magnificence.....

His son Ishwari Singh, born indolent, and not knowing how to maintain the harmony which reigned among his subjects, in a short time became the victim of Fate and ended by poisoning himself in order to bury his disgrace with himself. His brother, Madho Singh, more upright and more impartial, succeeded him.

* Evidently the Hindi *Vamshavali*, a transcript of which was taken by Major James Brown in 1785. A Persian adaptation of it, composed by Munshi Jan Alam is preserved in the British Museum. (Or. 1271. Rieu, i. 301.)

Mahadji Sindhia, the known enemy of this Court as well as of others, since the check which he received to his policy (of aggrandisement) solely at Tunga (1787), had sworn to ruin it. Accustomed to temporise and to dissimulate for carrying his object to its conclusion, in order to ensure it and to achieve the fullest success,—he corresponded cordially with this Court, entirely for sowing more independence among its rebel subjects, among whom the prime movers were his allies the Rao Rajah (of Alwar) and Bahadur Singh of Jhilai, —the latter being the head of the Rajawat sept, numbering 20 to 25 thousand men.

In order to accomplish his designs, Mahadji Sindhia keeps two armies in Jaipur territory. The facts about the orders to the first, which is commanded by Jivva Dada and supported by one of the brigades of General De Boigne (3rd brigade, commanded by Perron), have already been mentioned. The second, under the orders of Apa Khande Rao, with 10 to 15 thousand men, under the pretext of administering the provinces of Narnol &c., which were formerly leased to the Rajahs (of Jaipur), is devastating Shekhawati, which is the principal resource of the Prince (i.e., Rajah of Jaipur), which has been attached for the annual tribute that the Court of Jaipur cannot pay to the Marathas.

The inhabitants of this vast country, named Shekhawats, a Rajput clan, more than thirty thousand men, although as refractory as the other (vassals of Jaipur), have at need furnished subsidies to the Court of Jaipur, and have sometimes assisted it with up to ten thousand men of the superior cavalry of the country during the stronger of the rebellions (against it). During foreign troubles, they have engaged three or four thousand more men. But at present they have much to do to preserve their homes from the rapine of the collectors whom they are maintaining; so that, at the present moment, seeing the slavery (to the Marathas) which conspires for the destruction of this tottering region, every thing menaces it with an impending downfall, if the Supreme Decrees do not protect it.

The primary causes of this disaster, according to my limited knowledge, are, without partiality, the bad faith of the Government and of the subjects, reciprocally sacrificing each other's interests; the people inconstant and faithless to their allies as fully as to their treaties, without attachment, without gratitude, cheats and deceivers, enemies of the human species, yielding only to force and not at all to justice, vain, proud, traitors, despising all who are not themselves, believing themselves to be the first among mankind, ignorant, cunning and subtle, cringing under necessity, their views extremely petty, without ambition, without heart, without soul,—so indolent that they merely vegetate, as does the oyster within its shell. These are the characteristics which are left to these (heroes of) former wars, now cowards and a subjugated people.

Their country having been devastated and depopulated by the (Maratha) armies which eat up their produce, although immense, it has destroyed

all the branches of commerce which made it flourish, and has left for their subsistence only what escapes the activity of these armies. Nearly 25 years of such calamities leave their ruinous effect to be easily judged, without (the necessity of) further dilating on the head.

Without further dilating on this head which would, however, be the basis of the policy in support of the following observations,—if it were possible for human virtue to reanimate the remnants of the pristine vigour, and re-establish his resources exhausted in intriguing and temporising in the midst of these calamities ; it is still true that the gifts of Nature, (when) expanding again in the midst of his dominions, will be immense means of restoration for a people who are most industrious, most laborious and most intelligent, for mines which abound in all the known metals, for fertile hillocks which when cultivated in peace will very soon restore the abundance,—but are entirely neglected and even abandoned. The commerce of which that city was the principal depot of that region, (now) intercepted by the brigands,—who have ruined all the avenues of it—if re-established, what advantages will it not produce ? And these real and effective resources, will not fail to bring back to them their pristine splendour, if union is re-established in the Government and among its subjects,—if, say I, the Prince finds unexpected means of making his people return to their duty and maintaining them in their duty by his clemency and by his justice; immediately afterwards renews his alliances with sincerity, preserves them faithfully, and even makes new ones with the most equitable and preponderant Power in the continent, for mutual concert, not only to enjoy peacefully his prerogatives and his dominions, but also to contribute, by his re-established power, to the restoration of the balance for bringing harmony and peace to that vast desolated country and for expelling and banishing the perturbers forever.

The Prince, full of integrity, feels all the necessity of returning to the construction of that system, which is looked upon as his only succour in relation to the circumstances of the projects of his enemies against his restoration, and to those of his subjects, who feeling at present in all their country the yoke which they bear, are only murmuring against it, and cannot yet throw it off, but attribute the causes of it to their Prince, who (they say) has sacrificed them to his vengeance, without regarding the fact that they have deserved it by their disloyalty ; the people thus irritated leave little hope of bringing them back (to their loyalty) by gentleness of treatment ; and their character—which is self-willed and opinionative—forbids the hope even that they would renounce it, in order to return to more efficacious ways ; force seems to be the only one thing that is desirable and capable of opposing them. But what measures can be taken to apply it with success ?

The most sound meditation and prudence can foresee nothing except a powerful mediation, supported by a respectable corps, appearing

all of a sudden for effecting that design, which would without any obstacle re-establish the order and the concord necessary for the safety of all.

Behold the very great embarrassment of the Prince at being unprovided with creatures attached to his interests and to the general good of all. However, he thinks of it seriously and had made secret attempts to come to an understanding with those who would be interested in his preservation. For getting the better of those terrible forebodings (i.e., anticipated calamities), either to prevent them or to put them off, the Prince diplomatically humours the Marathas who pretend to be the defenders of his cause and under that mask succeed in crushing all those who can place obstacles to their future aims, be it by their importance or by their connections.

Pahar Singh, chief of the sept named Khangarots, who are 12 to 15 thousand in number, and who was formerly General of the troops attached to the Jaipur Court, out of jealousy at the preference shown to Daulatram his enemy, who had taxed him three lakhs of rupees for making up the contribution payable to the Marathas, and on his refusal to pay it had attached his places—secretly left the Court. On the Rajah pressing him to make the payment as a proof of his loyalty to him, Pahar Singh, whether through wildness or through vanity, believed himself abandoned through the wickedness of those who were interested in his ruin, and without considering the consequences left the Prince whom he had up to now served with more fidelity than his contemporaries; and having fallen into disgrace by his inconstancy after his good acts, has offered his services to Holkar, who wishes to come to this Court, in order to assist him in harming it.

Such is the actual view of this Court which is governed by a good Prince, surrounded by infamous subjects, whom he knows (to be such but) whom he tolerates in consequence of his moderation and of his prevision of the impossibility of his being able to improve them or to replace them by men more capable of holding the reins of a Government which has need as its heads, of men who are just, equitable and most wise for aiding him to guard against the snares and ambushes spread at his feet, as much by them as by his enemies themselves.

Daulatram's death brought to light a frightful spectacle. The Rajah of Jaipur had not then any body who, in that long period of distress, (had served him so effectively) whether by the great reputation of his ancestors, or by the fundamental basis of a numerous clan, by his intrigues, or by his finances which he lavished sometimes to satisfy the cupidity of his persecutors and at other times to engage troops for repelling their violence.

N.B.—Gopal Bhau, under the pretext of his discord with Jivva Dada, who by authority from Sindhia has been placed with our Prince for the

collection of the annual revenues (i.e., subsidy) mutually stipulated, for which the Jaipur Government has made an assignment of half its rights in Shekhawati, and after the subsidy has been paid by means of money-orders on his vassals,—demanded the payment of the sums assessed by him in disregard of the amounts already raised by the authorised collectors. He next demanded some frontier places for (stationing there) those who are devoted to him.

This new fraud was merely intended to cover the step which they had agreed to take against our Prince, when he issued for going to Udaipur, but he retraced his steps on learning of the stratagem by which the same Jivva Dada and Ambaji, placed in favourable stations, were to attack us on our front, while Gopal Bhau and Apa Khande Rao would attack the Capital (Jaipur) unawares.

The great De Boigne,—more famous for perfidious acts than for those honourable ones which his rank and his forces can make him execute with success, by his simple mediation, the better to accomplish his project of which he is the prime source, as soon as our Prince made the most active preparations of artillery, sent emissaries to our Prince, to reproach him for his lack of confidence in him (De Boigne),—who (says he) has made himself responsible for all that concerns the Jaipur Rajah's interests,—as shown by his dispositions to oppose De Boigne's dispositions, whilst he (De Boigne) and his battalions were devoted to the preservation of the Jaipur Rajah,—as De Boigne had two battalions in this quarter all ready to march at his order, with whom he (the Rajah) could go wherever he liked with the greatest security.

Proposals of Mons. J. Pillet.

I see nothing except a well-formed alliance between the Jaipur Rajah and the Government of His Britannic Majesty and the East India Company—if they see their interest in it—that can avert the deluge ready to descend on the Rajah's head, already preceded by a frightful tempest.

The least effective help which an authentic treaty solemnised by the appearance of an imposing and honest representative of the British Power at this Court and sustained by adequate forces on his frontier, can render is that it will afford grounds of defence in favour of their new ally, by the show of rupture which his enemies would fear from that imposing corps, always ready to make diversions in case of obstinacy on the part of his enemies. At the same time a smaller force, stationed as auxiliaries, with the Rajah [of Jaipur],—who under its auspices will summon his brethren and hold the enemy in check by the protection of his palace,—will, by this combination, conclude the matter by chasing these strangers (i.e., the Marathas) out of his territory..... But in order to ensure such a system of general peace it is desirable that a mutual alliance should be

established between the promoters of such a very beneficial scheme, and it should be accelerated, in view of the exigencies of the case. For this purpose they should assist each other with the necessary means of undertaking it, on evident necessity,—which cannot be except by an exact concord and community of armed forces, munitions, finances and other things relevant and useful to the object in view.

I refer you, below, to a note of what the Prince [Sawai Pratap Singh of Jaipur] is in need of, in order to fulfil his views exactly in the greatest conformity to his actual condition and the extent of his necessity.

First, a defensive and offensive treaty between him and the Company.

Secondly, one of the Company's representatives at his Court.

Thirdly, the supplying by the British of 7,000 fusils, etc., 2,000 musketoons for a corps of Cavalry, and as many pistols, sabres or swords, banderoles, etc.

Fourthly, the uniforms necessary for that corps.

Fifthly, permission to raise or recruit [troops] in your territory or in that of the Nawab Wazir (of Oudh).

All this on the usual conditions between two parties without any restrictions whatever on the common interest.

With these succours—which are only an easy matter for the power of the Company,—they will put a good ally in a condition to second their (*i.e.*, the Company's) views, be they ever so extensive, on that side, because he and his friends, in a short time will second your views with 50,000 cavalry besides the resources of his territory, without asking for any return save a firm protection on the part of the Company and full liberty to enjoy his dominions in peace.

It should, however, be observed (as a condition, by you) that the Company will not call upon his auxiliaries or his allies to undertake any measure without making at the same time grants for their subsistence, or pecuniary subsidies for their upkeep.

It is clear that none of the above articles seems to be inconvenient, especially to the policy of a Power so preponderant and so much superior to all others (as the English Company).

No. 2.—The Rajput Rajahs must unite against the Marathas before the English will help them.

FROM—COLONEL JOHN MURRAY, MILITARY AUDITOR GENERAL,

TO—LT. COL. PETER MURRAY, ADJUTANT GENERAL.

27th June 1794.

I have always been clearly of opinion, that the Northern Rajahs ought to be held up in their independence of the Marathas as a counterpoise ; and

men of good political talent in England are of the same opinion ; but this is chiefly to be effected by the Rajahs, through their own wisdom, by uniting to resist encroachments and by resolution to guarantee each other in their respective dominions.

It will require time, and a perseverance in good faith towards each other, to make them sensible of the advantages that would result to themselves by establishing a system of this sort. The remote situation of the Rajahs renders us less uneasy about their subjugation by the Marathas than we ought to be ; but as we are not immediately affected, we are inclined to trust to the chapter of accidents, more perhaps than would be consistent with deeper views into future events. It is evident that the annihilation of the power of the Rajahs would leave the Marathas more at freedom to molest ourselves, and indeed make them an overmatch for any Power in India ; yet as the evils of war are certain, the advantages of enjoying quiet are desirable, and this may possibly make us less guarded than we should be against greater ultimate risks.

A general system for the peace of India, on the principles which I suggested in 1785, can only be established by authority from Home. Lord Cornwallis proceeded upon that principle in the alliance with the Nizam, and the Marathas, and if the Northern Rajahs are brought into the circle the Marathas would be taught that they must keep at home. Until then there can be little chance of permanent peace, especially as we have strengthened the Marathas by several political errors.

You acted very properly in declining to give any conjecture relative to the opinion which Government might form on any overture from the Rajah of Jaipur. If he wishes to make any proposition, he ought to do it in writing to Government ; you should ascertain, as well as you can, the extent of his dominions, his revenues and forces, and obtain the like information relative to the other Rajahs. You must not easily believe that the Rajah could furnish forty thousand horse, which at Rs. 30 per month, per man and horse, would cost nearly a *krore* and half of Rupees per annum.

No. 3.—*Danger to British India from suffering the Marathas to crush the Rajput States.*

FROM—COLONEL JOHN MURRAY,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

10 July 1794.

I wrote some days ago to my brother relative to the Jaipur business in the very words of your note of this morning, " that a treaty offensive and

defensive is out of the question"—and I added that I had doubts of the Government's sending a Resident to that Court; respecting this last point, however, I take the liberty of expressing my wish that you may be pleased to consider the subject. There is nothing more certain than that the countenance of our Resident was of essential service to Sindhia, who had the address to make important use of it, by inducing the neighbouring Chiefs to believe, that his connection with the English was so close, that, if necessary they would aid him with troops to accomplish his purpose. I had occasion to ascertain personally, in 1785, the great influence which this idea had on the Chiefs, and I took some pains to undeceive them. It was on the same principle of adding to his own importance, that Sindhia was so earnest to have the Resident with him at Poona. There is little doubt that a treaty on the terms suggested by Mons. Pillet, or upon better, might, as you observe, be obtained at any time; but this, necessarily, supposes the Jaipur Power to be able to support itself in the meantime; and the risk is, that it will be annihilated by the Marathas before they break with us. The countenance of our Agent from the Government, to the Northern Rajahs, without any ties whatever, would serve to encourage them to unite and coalesce among themselves, by showing that the English wish them well, and have not any particular exclusive partiality for the Marathas, and if these last should understand that this Government does not wish that the Rajahs should be crushed, there is some chance that the power of the Rajahs might, in the course of a little time, be so consolidated, as to enable them to resist the depredations of the Marathas. If the subjugation of the Northern Rajahs is a matter of indifference to the British Government, measures tending to protract, or prevent, the event, is (*sic in orig.*) unnecessary; but if it is desirable on sound political grounds that the Princes should be encouraged to maintain their independence, and if the merely sending a Resident to Jaipur could have that tendency, as the Rajah seems confident would be the case, it is with you, dear Sir, to consider or not whether it should be done. There is no need of incurring much expense.....

The bias which I confess I have in favour of the independence of the Northern Rajahs, rests entirely on public grounds. Whilst there were other Powers to the Northward between us and the Marathas, the more distant Rajahs were of little account with us; but the change of circumstances renders, in my humble judgment, their independence an object of very great importance, as effecting a powerful check on the restless and insatiable Marathas, and being therefore essential towards the continuance of our paramount influence in India. I should be glad that Mr. Edmonstone (the Persian translator) was recommended not to confide anything on this subject to any Native.

No. 4.—The revenue, possessions, and feudatories of the Rajput Princes; the districts seized by the Marathas and others.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—GOVERNOR GENERAL.

An Account of the **Revenues** of all the Rajahs respecting whom I could procure information here follows; the account is carried down to the end of 1209 Hijeree (which ended on 17 July, 1795).

Rs.

Rajah Soorat Sing of Bikaner—

Jama formerly	27,00,000
Present Jama	9,00,000

Rajah Omaid Sing of Kotah—

Jama formerly	55,00,000
Present Jama	35,00,000

Rajah Bishan Singh of Boondi—

Jama formerly	10,00,000
Present Jama	6,00,000

Rajah Radheeka Das, son of Rajah Sheo Das of Sheepoor—

Jama formerly	7,00,000
Present Jama	4,00,000

Rajah Bheem Sing of Odaypoor—

Jama formerly	1,06,00,000
Present Jama .. .. .	....

Rajah Partab Sing of Kishangarh—

Jama formerly	6,00,000
Present Jama .. .. .	....

(Sooba of Ajmere, in Dowlat Row Sindhia's possession—

Jama formerly	
Present Jama)	3,50,000

Rajah Bheem Singh of Jodhpoor—

Jama formerly	1,00,25,000
Present Jama	

Rajah Manik Pal of Keraolee—

Jama formerly	17,17,000
Present Jama .. .. .	....

Rajah Bakhtawar Sing of Macheree—

Rs.

Jama formerly	..	..	..	11,29,000
Present Jama	..	..	..	..

Rajah Partab Sing of Jaynagar—

Jama formerly	..	..	..	1,23,20,000
Present Jama	..	..	..	86,51,000

Account of the Country of Rajah Soorat Sing of **Bikaner** and of his Jagirdars.

The country at the Khareef season yields *Moth, Bajra, Jawar, Moong*, and Sesame, but in the Rabee season nothing is produced. Yearly three lacs of rupees (the *sayar* collections etc. included) are in case of the falling of rain paid into the Treasury; what remains goes to the discharge of the expenses of the Jagirdars etc. From the present time to the end of the year 1209 Hijeri,—

13 Parganas and 2307 villages—

Rs.

Jama formerly	..	..	..	27,00,000
Present Jama	..	..	..	9,00,000

Pargana Bikaner has a brick fort which is on a level and surrounded by a town defended by brick walls; this pargana contains 325 villages.

Pergunnah Nohar has	..	..	..	230	villages.
Do. Kunnusar (Kanasar)	..	..	..	163	do.
Do. Sorksur (Shekhsar)	..	..	..	180	do.
Do. Rajajirdd (? Rajahad)	..	..	..	150	do.
Do. Jasrasar	..	..	..	144	do.
Do. Rawatsar	..	..	..	190	do.
Do. Churoo	..	..	..	270	do.
Do. Rajaldesar	..	..	..	130	do.
Do. Mugra (Munghrasar)	..	..	..	140	do.
Do. Pooneeyah (=Rajgarh)	..	..	..	155	do.
Do. Bhull (Pugal)	..	..	..	120	do.

Pargana Breedoa Sur (Bidasar) has a fort on a flat and contains 113 villages.

Account of the Country of Rajah Omaid Sing of **Kotah** and of his Jagirdars,—

14 Parganas and 3,214 villages—

Rs.

Jama formerly	..	..	..	55,00,000
Present Jama	..	..	..	35,00,000

Pargana Kotah has a large fort on a flat and contains 660 villages.

Pargana Shahabad, taken by force from the Rajah of Narwar, has a large fort and contains 640 villages.

Pargana Shergarh has a large fort and 60 villages.

Pargana Manohar Thana has a fort and 140 villages.

Pargana Baran Barod has 150 villages.

Do. Chand Kheree 82 do.

Do. Ranee Parbat 16 do.

Pargana Banoo, taken by force from the Rajah of Boondi, has a large fort situated on a hill and contains 1,400 villages.

Pargana Deeoolea-garhi has 71 villages.

Pargana Koeela-garhi has 36 do.

Pargana Jahajpur, taken from the Rajah of Boondi, has 80 villages.

Pargana Zar Halloo, taken from the Raja of Odaypoor, contains 101 villages. [Mortgaged to Kotah for loans given to Udaipur by Zalim S.]

Pargana Makkun-garh [Mukand-dara] has .. 55 villages.

Do. Relawan 24 do.

Account of the Rajah of **Boondi's** country and of his Jagirdars, consisting of 4 Parganas— Rs.

Jama formerly 10,00,000

Present Jama 6,00,000

Pargana Bansee

Do. Dhonkaree [Dugari]

Do. Neendeh [=Nainwa] has a very strong mud-fort.

Do. Boondie has a large fort on a hill.

The People of the South, that is to say the Marathas, have possessed themselves of the three following parganas which once belonged to the Rajah of Boondi—

Pargana Patan-sani.

Do. Lakheri.

Do. Khatauli.

Account of the Country of the Rajah of **Sheepoor** and of his Jagirdars—5 Mahals. Rs.

Jama formerly 7,00,000

Present Jama 4,00,000

Pargana Sheepoor has a large fort situated on a hill and reaching down to the plain, and the Pargana has 360 villages.

Pargana Karahal has 140 villages.

The village of Manpoor where there is a fort.

Do. Hirapoor where there is a small fort.

Do. Purroade [=Baroda] do.

Account of the Country of Rana Bheem Sing of **Odaypoor**
39 Mahals—

Jama formerly	106,00,000
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Viz.

Deduct two Mahals held by the Marathas and others and yielding	21,00,000
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Remainder, 37 Mahals yielding	85,00,000
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Appropriated by the Rajah—20,00,000 viz.,

The city of Oodaypoor with a fort on a hill.

Pargana Chitor with a large fort on a hill.

Do. Dariba with a large fort on the plain.

Do. Kupaas [Kapasas].

Do. Mandal-Poor with a fort on the plain.

Do. Untala.

Allotted in gifts, charities etc.	20,00,000
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Pargana Jahajpur.

Do. Raj Samund, with a fort on a plain.

Do. Mahoowa Do. do.

Do. Pahuna.

Do. Roypoor with a fort in the plain.

Kasba Nathdwara.

In the possession of the Rajah's brothers, Ameers, Jagirdars etc.
25 Mahals, yielding formerly Jama of 45,00,000 viz.,—

Belonging to the sixteen Ameers related to and
connected with one another, 16 mahals, yielding formerly

	Rs.
Jama of	20,00,000
viz. Sadry etc., with a fort on a hill, yield ..	1,25,000
Dilwara etc. do. do. ..	1,25,000
Gogunda do. do. ..	1,25,000
Kobhaara [=Kotharia] do. ..	1,25,000
Puraasoalee [Parsoli] do. do. ..	1,25,000
Bednor do. do. ..	1,25,000
Khamnor do. do. ..	1,25,000
Saloombar do. do. ..	1,25,000
Deogarh do. do. ..	1,25,000
Ameth do. do. ..	1,25,000
Begoon do. do. ..	1,25,000
Kanor etc. with a fort on a flat do. ..	1,25,000
Bhindar etc. with a fort on a hill do. ..	1,25,000
Bansee etc. fort on a flat do. ..	1,25,000
Bijoli etc. fort on a hill	1,25,000
Beedla etc. do. do. ..	1,25,000

20,00,000

Belonging to Zamindars, Jagirdars etc., 9 Mahals				Rs.
yielding formerly a Jama of	..	..	..	[25,00,000
viz., Dungarpur etc., has a fort on a hill and yields.				5,00,000
Bans-wada etc.	do.	do.	..	5,00,000
Shahpoora etc., with a very strong fort on a flat	..			5,00,000
Deolia	..	..	..	5,00,000
Sanwar etc. with a fort on a hill	..	..	..	1,00,000
Banhar [Banera] etc. with a fort on a hill, yields	..			1,00,000
Jharoll, fort on a flat	do.	..	..	1,00,000
Kushal [-pura] garh fort on a hill	..	..	..	1,00,000
Mandalgarh	do.	..	..	1,00,000

The Rajah of Jodhpore and the Marathas have possessed themselves of two mahals yielding 21,00,000 of Rupees from among the mahals of the Rana Bheem Singh, vizt., the Rajah of Jodhpore seized by force of arms the Pargana of Godwar, former Jama 12,00,000

Mahal Rampoor, now in the hand of the Marathas, formerly in the possession of the Rana of Odaypur, Amar Sing, who gave it to Madho Sing of Jaypur (who was in Odaypur at the time) that out of it he might discharge his expenses; after the death of the Rajah Iswaree Singh, Rajah Madho Sing got possession of the sovereignty of Jaypur by the aid of the Maratha Malhar Row, to whom in consequence he gave as a grant the above mahal, the former Jama of which was 9,00,000

Account of the country of the Rajah of **Kishangarh** consisting of 8 Mahals.

Deduct one Mahal Ramsar in the hands of the Marathas.

Remain 7 Mahals yielding formerly a Jama of .. 6,00,000

viz. Kishangarh, a fort on a flat and very strong Pargana Rupnagar.

do.	do.	do.	Sarwar.
do.	do.	do.	Arain [? Rai
do.	do.	do.	Bandar Sindri.

The Kasba of Sri-nagar.

The Kasba of Gargari [Karkhari].

Pargana Ramsar, recently taken possession of by the Marathas.

Account of the Sooba of **Ajmer** belonging to the Marathas and containing 6 Mahals yielding at present a Jama of 3,50,000

The city of Ajmere which, including the villages contained in the *tappa* and in the *haveli*, has 201 villages.

Pargana Kekri.

Do. Bhinai.

Do. Sawar (with a fort on a flat), recently taken by force from the Zamindars who formerly paid an established tribute, [here follows a passage utterly unintelligible.]

Bheehira [? Baghera] on a hill, in the same predicament as the above.

Deogaon, with a fort on a flat, in the same predicament as the foregoing.

Account of the country of Rajah Bheem Sing, son of

Rajah Bejay Sing and chief of **Jodhpore**, together

with that of his Jagirdars, etc. the whole making

26 Mahals of which the Jama for the entire year

was formerly 1,00,25,000

The city of Jodhpore with a fort on a hill, including villages dependent.

Nagor, a brick fort, on a flat and very strong, including pargana dependent.

Merta.

Parbat-sar.

Didwana with a small mud-fort.

Marot do.

Garh Kuchaman.

The village of Nanwa [Nawa].

Pargana Sojat, with a fort on a hill.

The Kasba of Pali.

Do. Sirohi (? Siwana).

The fort of Behroondel [Borunda] dismantled.

The Kasba of Kuhantoo [=Khatu] with a fort, dismantled.

Pargana of Jaitaran.

Do. Amarkot etc., with a large and very strong fort, situate on a sandy soil.

Pargana of Jalor, with a large fort very difficult of access.

The Kasba of Pali [? Phalodi].

The fort of Kunhoorch (Kotri), on a hill a place of difficult approach.

The Kasba of Dawlat-garh.

Pargana Sambhar.

Pach-bhadra, which place produces salt.

Jeesoon [=Jasol in Mallani].

Sheekot (? Shergarh).

Balotra (Bilara).

Sindaree [or Sanderao ?].

Deosuree.

Rs.

Account of the Parganas belonging to Manik Pal, the Rajah of Kirowlee , including those held by his Jagirdars etc. containing in all 18 Mahals which formerly yielded a Jama of	17,17,000
Deduct the value of 3 Mahals taken by the Marathas	5,00,000
	<hr/>
Remainder, 15 Mahals	12,17,000
	<hr/>

Particulars of the 15 Mahals, vizt—

Bijaypoor with a fort and containing 17 villages ..	1,00,000
Seetal-garh [Sabalgarh] with a fort on a hill and containing 45 villages	2,00,000
Banseewalee with a small mud fort and containing 13 villages [? Bhankri]	40,000
Rampoor with a fort	12,000
Byrurr [Birpur]	20,000
Gulhooree [Golari]	20,000
Badrethagarh containing 84 villages	50,000
Tulluhreh [Tentra] fort containing 20 villages ..	40,000
Meedarmull [Mandrael] fort containing 40 villages ..	40,000
Duhoodpur [Bahadurpur] fort containing 24 villages.	50,000
Mankrool [Mangrol] a large fort of difficult approach, 12 villages	50,000
Deogarh fort	25,000
Pargana Sarthal	70,000
Ranhoo Pathree, 20 villages	1,00,000

The following are the 3 Mahals taken possession of by the Marathas :—

Pargannah Aleepoor.

Do. Somanlee.

Do. Chounra.

Rs.

Account of the Parganas belonging to Rao Rajah Bakhtawar Sing, chief of Machery , containing 25 Mahals which formerly yielded a Jama of ..	11,29,000
There is a portion of land which Sawai Partab Sing formerly bestowed on this chief as a <i>Jaidad</i> or maintenance; the said portion comprehends 4 mahals, yielding	44,000
The village of Rajgarh with a large fort on a hill ..	20,000
Rajpoor, a strong fort on a flat	4,000
Mozah Thulla [Tehla] etc. containing 7 villages ..	15,000
The village of Machery with a fort on a hill ..	5,000

	Rs.
There is also a place called Bhoosaolee, or more commonly called Ali-nagar, which the Rajah took from the Nawab Zulfiqar [Ali] Khan Khanazada and which comprehends 44 villages yielded annually	30,000
Parganahs the Rajah took from the Maharajah Sawai	
• Partab Singh, chief of Jaynagar, containing 16 Mahals yielding	7,55,000
As follows, viz.—	
Pargana Thana Ghazi, comprehending 115 villages, and yielding formerly	3,50,000
Pargana Harsaura &c., containing 80 villages and yielding a Jama of	1,80,000
Pargana Biderhun [Barohar] do. 40 villages, Jama..	50,000
Do. Nargyanpur, do. 27 villages	50,000
Lachman-garh, with a fort on a flat, very large and strong	25,000
The village of Pipalkhera	1,000
Ramgarh, with a fort on a flat, very strong ..	10,000
The village of Kankwaree, with a fort on a hill ..	2,000
Partab-garh, with a fort on a hill of difficult access..	5,000
Mozah of Jamrooli, with a brick fort on a flat ..	6,000
Do. Kaneera	1,000
Jaoolee, with some villages	40,000
Kuhdana [Khudiana] do.	30,000
Kamoojee, a small mud fort on a flat	2,000
Mauker [Mahwa] a small fort on a hill ..	2,000
Mozah of Khoshal-garh •	1,000
<hr/>	
Parganas taken by the Rajah Ranjeet Sing Jat, the chief of Bharatpoor, containing 4 Mahals, yielding formerly a Jama of	3,00,000
The fort of Aloor large and strong, on a hill, villages 84, Jama	15,000
Pargana Bahadurpoor, 20 villages, former Jama ..	25,000
Do. Dashee, with a mud fort on a flat, villages 20, Jama	25,000
Do. Nahroor, with a mud fort on a flat, former Jama	1,00,000
Account of the Country &c. of Raja Sawai Partab Sing Bahadur, chief of Jainagar,	
former Jama	1,23,20,000
present do.	86,51,000

Consisting of the Khalsa &c., and 24 Parganas, including Sambhar and 15 Kasbas, particulars as follows—

Rs.

The 24 Parganas, comprehending 4,678 Mozahs,	
former Jama	72,55,000
present do.	51,41,000
The Rajah's own Khalsa formerly ..	2,05,000

This is a statement of the Jama of lands out of the 24 Parganas above mentioned, set apart for the disbursement here specified:—

Rs.

Sepoy Jagirdars, Silah-posh men, and topkhana, with the troops that are paid in cash, as formerly—

Jagirdars, 7,000 cavalry	20,00,000
Sila-posh men	1,25,000
Topkhana and troops paid in cash ..	1,25,000
Mutasadis &c., formerly	6,00,000
Tanka Deory & Zanana do.	3,00,000
Yearly charities and gifts do.	20,00,000
Domestics do.	1,00,000

Enumeration of the Mahals and Parganas ; in the 24 Parganas, (the Pargana of Sambhar therein included), villages 4,678, former yearly Jama ..

72,55,000

Present Jama with Sayer & c. of Sambhar, viz.

39,64,000

Pargana Sawai Jaypoor with a large fort on a hill, villages 1,400,

former Jama	26,00,000
present do.	1,50,000

Do. Chatsu, villages 415,

former Jama	3,00,000
present do.	2,00,000

Do. Newai with a small fort on a hill, villages 42,

former Jama	50,000
present do.	25,000

Do. Lalsot, villages 145,

former Jama	1,50,000
present do.	80,000

Do. Toda Ray Sing, with a fort on a hill, villages 125,

former Jama	3,00,000
present do.	2,00,000

Do. Watka, villages 42,

former Jama	40,000
present do.	25,000

Rs.

Pargana Deosa, villages 233,				
former Jama	..	..	..	2,50,000
present do.	..	..	..	1,25,000
Do. Bahatar, commonly called Baswa, villages 665				
former Jama	..	..	..	5,00,000
present do.	..	..	..	2,50,000
Do. Wazeerpoor, villages 24,				
former Jama	..	..	..	50,000
present do.	..	..	..	20,000
Do. Udai, villages 126,				
former Jama	..	..	..	1,50,000
present do.	..	..	..	1,00,000
Do. Toda Tonk, villages 120.				
former Jama	..	..	..	1,50,000
present do.	..	..	..	1,00,000
Do. Paota, villages 200,				
former Jama	..	..	..	3,00,000
present do.	..	..	..	1,50,000
Do. Piragpoora, villages 42,				
former Jama	..	..	..	45,000
present do.	..	..	..	25,000
Do. Malpoora, villages 184,				
former Jama	..	..	..	3,00,000
present do.	..	..	..	1,50,000
Do. Malarna, villages 155,				
former Jama	..	..	..	2,00,000
present Jama	..	..	..	1,00,000
Do. Fagi, villages 42,				
former Jama	..	..	..	40,000
present do.	..	..	..	25,000
Do. Khandar, villages 99,				
former Jama	..	..	..	2,50,000
present do.	..	..	..	1,50,000
Do. Sawai Madhopoor, villages 115,				
former Jama	..	..	..	2,00,000
present do.	..	..	..	1,55,000
Do. Hindaon, villages 375,				
former Jama	..	..	..	7,00,000
present do.	..	..	..	3,00,000
Do. Bairath, villages 24,				
former Jama	..	..	..	1,00,000
present do.	..	..	..	40,000

Rs.

Pargana Moazabad, villages 45,

former Jama	..	..	..	1,50,000
present do.	..	..	..	60,000

Do. Narayina, villages 35,

former Jama	..	..	..	1,00,000
present do.	..	..	..	46,000

Pargana Danta Ramgarh with a strong brick fort on a hill, villages 25,

former Jama	..	..	..	30,000
present do.	..	..	..	18,000

Pargana Sambhar, yielding from its salt collections,

former Jama	..	..	..	6,00,000
present do.	..	..	..	3,00,000

Half of the amount is paid into the Jodhpore Rajah's Treasury and half goes to the Jaynagar Khalsa.

Besides the Revenue arising from the Parganas there are 15 Kasbas dependent on the forts, and

of these Kasbas the produce is at present .. 11,77,000
viz. the fort of Amber on a hill, present Jama .. 25,000

Sanganer, with Doorgapoorah, fort and shahr-panah or walled defence, present Jama .. 60,000

The fort of Sainthal, which is large, of mud and on a flat, yields .. 40,000

Ranthamvor, with a large fort on a hill, which fort is very difficult of access, Jama .. 4,00,000

Fort Mahowa, Jama .. 25,000

Manpoor, with a mud fort on a flat, Jama .. 25,000

Dubbee, with a small mud fort on a flat, Jama .. 15,000

Baoree Khera do. do. .. 10,000

Kalak, with a fort on a hill, Jama .. 25,000

Jobner do. do. .. 15,000

Sri Madhopur, .. 3,00,000

Madho Rajpoora, with a small fort on a flat .. 15,000

Khoshal-garh, with a mud fort on a flat .. 2,00,000

Madhogarh and Nasrida, two places .. 22,000

Madhogarh, with a fort on a hill, yielding .. 7,000

Nasrida with a fort on a flat do. .. 15,000

Account of the Parganas &c. belonging to Rajpoot Zamindars and dependent on the mahals of Jaynagar, parganahs 3, Kasbas 2, villages 1,309,

former Jama	..	..	..	23,55,000
present do.	..	..	..	19,50,000

Rs.

Belonging to Row Rajah Bheem, chief of Ooniara, 3 Parganas,

former Jama 5,00,000

present do. 4,00,000

viz, Pargana Ooniara, with a mud fort on a flat.

• Do. Makar, with a mud fort on a flat.

Do. Kakaor, with a small fort on a hill.

Belonging to the Rajawat Bahadur Sing of Jhilai, 136 villages,

former Jama 4,50,000

present do. 3,00,000

To Bahadur Sing, 56 villages,

former Jama 2,00,000

present do. 1,50,000

Viz. the Kasba Jhilai, 7 villages.

Baoli with a fort on a hill, 42 villages.

Scattered villages 7.

Belonging to Abhay Sing of Isarda, 80 villages,

former Jama 2,50,000

present do. 1,50,000

Viz., Isarda with a large fort on a flat, Bhagwantgarh.

Belonging to Sooraj Mal Seewarwala Rajawat, 2 Kasbas, containing 90 villages,

former Jama 3,00,000

present do. 2,00,000

Viz, the village of Seewar with a large fort on a hill.

Do. Khirnee with a large fort on a flat.

Belonging to the Shekhawats, 1,083 villages,

former Jama 11,05,000

present do. 10,50,000

Viz.

To Deby Sing, Sikar chief,

former Jama 3,55,000

present do. 3,00,000

Pargana Kaslee, 84 villages, former Jama 25,000

Do. Fatehpoor, 360 villages, former Jama 3,00,000

Scattered villages 22 30,000

To Bagh Sing, chief of Khetri, 217 villages,

former Jama 2,50,000

present do. 2,00,000

Rs.

Viz. Pargana Mandela, a large fort, and consisting of 42 villages.

Do.	Singhana	} 175 villages.
Do.	Jhun-Jhunu	

Fort of Khetri, large.

To Ranjeet Sing and Shyam Sing, sons of Soojan Sing, 200 villages

former Jama	..	..	2,50,000
present do.	..	..	1,75,000

To Nahar Sing and the other sons of Newal Sing, 200 villages,

former Jama	..	..	..	2,50,000
present do.	1,75,000

To a variety of Shekhawat Zemindars, Jama at the most	20.00.000
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Account of the Parganas in the mahals of Jaypoor which were taken possession of by Rao Bakhtawar Sing Narooka, chief of Machery,—

Five Parganas, comprehending 297 villages,

annual Jama formerly	..	..	..	5,65,000
present Jama,	..	..	..	3,60,000

Viz. Pargana Thana Ghazi, 125 villages,

former Jama	..	..	..	3,50,000
present do.	..	..	..	2,50,000

Do. Harsaura, 80 villages,

former Jama	..	..	..	90,000
present do.	..	..	..	50,000

Pargana Pindayan, [Bairohar] 40 villages,

former Jama	..	..	..	50,000
present do.	..	..	..	25,000

Lachmangarh, of mud, on a flat, very strong, 25 villages

former Juma	..	..	..	25,000
present do.	..	..	..	15,000

Pargana Narayanpoor, 27 villages,

former Jama	..	..	..	50,000
presetn do.	..	..	..	20,000

Account of the places within the mahals of Jainagar which (places) are in the possession of the Marathas.

	Rs.
Nine Parganas comprehending 1,178 villages,	
former Jama	21,45,000
present do.	12,00,000
Viz. Pargana Tonk belonging to Tukoji Holkar to whom the late Maharajah Madho Sing gave it, 200 villages,	
former Jama	3,00,000
present do.	2,00,000
Do. Rampoor, belonging to Tukoji Holkar by the gift of Madho Singh, villages 42,	
former Jama	80,000
present do.	45,000
Do. Kama, seized, by Lakhwaji, 84 villages,	
former Jama	2,00,000
present do.	1,50,000
Do. Khoree, do. 300 villages.	
former Jama	9,00,000
present do.	3,00,000
Pargana Pahri, seized by Lakhwaji, 100 villages,	
former Jama	1,00,000
present do.	40,000
Do. Kanaor Khudana, with a fort on a flat, seized by Apa Khande Row, 170 villages,	
former Jama	2,75,000
present do.	2,50,000
Do. Narnaol, seized by Apa Khande Row, 125 villages,	
former Jama	1,50,000
present do.	1,25,000
Do. Kantee, seized by Lakhwaji, villages 42,	
former Jama	40,000
present do.	25,000
Do. Kōt Putli, with a small fort and seized by Lakhwaji, villages 115,	
former Jama	1,00,000
present do.	65,000

The above is the statement of Ghulam Sarwar who has thus summarily set forth all that has come to his knowledge. Owing to the Marathas having taken possession of several places, I have been unable to obtain adequate information of the present Jama of the same.

SECTION 2

Hindustan affairs till the retirement of De Boigne in February 1796.

No. 5.—Gopal Bhau defeats Holkar's troops at Lakheri. Tukoji Holkar retires from Rajputana. Timur Shah dies.

Extract of a Paper of Intelligence, dated 29th May 1793.

An action took place near the village Kishen -Kharli, [better known as the battle of Lakheri, 30 miles south of Sawai Madhopur], between Gopal Bhau, who had surrounded his cavalry with his artillery and infantry, and the Holkars [i.e., the sons of Tukoji Holkar]. The Holkars made a charge with their cavalry, but were defeated by the artillery. Gopal Bhau took 200 horses, 50 camels, 3 palankins, 10 load of rockets, and 4 camels laden with treasure, and encamped on Holkar's ground. Raghupat Row, Bapoo Holkar's Dewan, was killed.

From Fathgarh, 27th June 1793.

Timur Shah died rather suddenly on 8th Shawwal (=19th May, 1793) at Jalalabad, between Peshawar and Kabul. [Zaman Shah succeeded him on the Durrani or Abdali throne.]

Tukoji Holkar has retreated into Malwa, and is now within 35 kos of Indore. Gopal Bhau has selected a detachment under Lakwa Dada to follow him and observe his motions.

No. 6.—News from Poona about the Nizam, the war between Parashuram Bhau and Kolhapur, and the affairs of Bundelkhand.

FROM—SIR C. W. MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, 31st January 1794.

Since my last respects of the 24th I have been favored with copy of Mr. Steuart's address to you of the 22nd and sincerely wish that every

prospect of a disputed succession to the Nazim's Government had been removed by the death of Dara Jah, since even under the continuance of the probable evils of that perilous predicament, Mr. Steuart seems to have a predilection for the measure of entering into separate engagements with the Nazim, so unequivocally objected to by this Court that its adoption would virtually produce the defensive connexion with his Highness, in support of that engagement in opposition to this State, of which the Nazim has been so long and so perseveringly in pursuit but hitherto so decidedly declined by our Government.

A person named Prithee Sing was yesterday introduced under the patronage of M. Sindia to the Peshwa as the agent of the different Rajas of Bundelkund or Dinghy, he being a relation of the Purna Family—This seems to be part of a plan of the Patil to supplant Aly Bahadur's commission in those parts in the prosecution of which Prithee Sing will be taught to offer under the Patil's mediation such payments and such forms of accommodation on the part of the zemindars of that quarter as may be desirable to this Court on condition of Aly Bahadur's recall, all which will be supported by the Patil's influence, while by the advance of his army under Gopal Bhow to those quarters, having as I understand already reached Dattea, and instigating the several zemindars he will so straiten and embarrass Aly Bahadur's operations as to give every possible efficacy to his designs here through the agency of Prithee Sing. I confess, Honourable Sir, that I should be better pleased were the influence of these restless people less prevalent on and farther removed from our N.E. Frontier.

It is confidently reported that Pursaram Bhow having, even after the late honourable liberation of his son, formed hostile designs against the Raja of Kolapore, was prevented by a night attack in which the latter surprized and gained a considerable advantage over Bhow's forces, but I am inclined to hope this report will not be verified.

Mr. Steuart in the last part of his address to you of the 22nd, conveys a strong picture of that very rivalry between our Government and this State the idea of which Sir. J. Kennaway so warmly rejected. In fact the predicament is too obvious to be concealed or dissembled, but I much doubt whether Mr. Steuart's prudent suggestion of "supporting the Nizam without committing ourselves" in the course of that rivalry, can be reconciled to the objectionable measure of closing independantly with us on Lord Cornwallis's draft, for which a predilection is expressed in the 5th paragraph of his letter.

No. 7.—Consultations among the Poona Ministers and Mahadji's officers immediately after the death of Mahadji. Precautions taken for keeping peace. Arrival of Daulat Rao Sindhia at Poona.

Translation of Extracts from a Persian news-letter from the Camp
• of the late Madajec Sinder, written on 13th February 1794.

Received Calcutta, 10th March 1794.

The Sardars met in the late Sindia's Dewan-Khana when the Peshwa sent to signify his intention of going to condole upon the late event, to which they replied by requesting him to defer it until the arrival of Dawlat Row Sindia. By intelligence from Poona it appears that the Peshwa and Nana are extremely grieved at the death of Sindia and have stopped the Naubats. The bones of the late Maharajah have been sent to be cast into the conflux of the northern and southern Ganga which flow into the Bheemra. After the usual ceremonies had passed Balloo Mirza observed to Appa Chitnavees that time could never wear off their regret at this event, but that it was necessary for them to use their whole attention to arrange the late Maharajah's household and establish the Chiefship of Dawlat Row Sindia, adding 'you will carry on such matters as are now depending'. He observed that the Poona Ministers had established the present Peshwa's authority in the Government even before he was born, but that Dawlat Row Sindia was arrived at years of understanding, that as for himself who had so many years been supported by Sindia, he was ready with his life and property to establish the authority of Dawlat Row and preserve in splendour the name of Sindia, that the latter had departed single in his own person, and his country, property, army and artillery remained as before. Appa Chitnavees as well as the other Sirdars answered to this that they were in every respect ready. Letters were then despatched in the name of Dawlat Rao Sindia to the King notifying the death of the Patel, his own succession to his authority, and a request to be honored with the same marks of the royal favor that were bestowed upon the late Maharajah; to Shah Nizam-ud-din communicating the above event and desiring application might be made to the King for a *Khilat* and title; to Colonel De Boigne, Messrs Brown [? Perron] and Fremont, encouraging them and desiring them to be zealous in continuing their services to the Sarkar in concert with Gopal Bhow and Jivaji Bakshee; and to Gopal Bhow and all the other sardars giving them encouragement.

The draft of an address from the Peshwa to the King was sent to Nana. The Moonshee at the same time shewed a list of the letters to be written to the other Powers and Chiefs to Appa Chitnavees, who directed that letters

to the Nizam and Mushir-ul-Mulk, the Governor General and Vizir should be first prepared and to the others according to the list.

Further letters were written to the Rajahs of Jodhpore, Kota and Boondee, and to Cheyt Sing, notifying the death of Sindia and succession of Dawlat Row, and to Runjeet Sing etc. Rajaram Bhow then came from Poona, communicated in private to Apa Chitnavis the declarations that had been made by Nana. Hary Pandit [Fadke], Baloo Tatya and Bhow Farnavis were present at the conference ; Balloo Mirza observed to them and the rest of the Sardars that as yet Dawlat Row had no knowledge of anything and therefore the whole conduct of public affairs must fall upon themselves ; that, in a few words, while they acted with unanimity all affairs would go on well, but if they disagreed both the supremacy and themselves would go to ruin. The Sirdars answered that they would in every respect come into whatever Apa Chitnavis might settle with Poona ; they then consulted as to the mode of providing for the expences of the troops at Poona and those with Gopal Bhow and Jivaji Bakshee. Balloo Mirza observed that a crore of rupees would be wanted to satisfy the troops, for that although Sindia left the country without an enemy or a rebel, yet on account of the extent of territory some confusion was to be apprehended ; that if once they could satisfy the army and obtain a khelat and dismissal from the Peshwa, the country and its produce would be under their own control. A letter from the Peshwa for the King which came was delivered to the Vakeel ; and Apa Chitnavis, Bhow Farnavis, Baloo Mirza etc., having consulted together, letters were written and forwarded to Khundoo Huzzrah, Koylee Mull, Bhow Bakshy and two or three bankers inhabitants of Ujjain to provide money for the pay of the troops at 7 days' sight. The amil of Boorhanpore was also written to for the same purpose. They sent for Khoshal Chand Seth and gave him encouragement and desired him to inspire the rest of the bankers in Camp with confidence.

(The Sardars met in the Patel's Dewan-khana, a letter was addressed to Runjeet Sing Durani [? Jat] and delivered to the Vakeel, whom Balloo Mirza informed that all particulars were contained in Dawlat Row's letter, and desired that he would write to his constituent to be as zealous as before for the arrangement of affairs and to act in concert with Gopal Bhow. Some letters from the Peshwa addressed to Gopal Bhow, Jivaji Bakshee, and Ambajee Ingle, urging them to continue as active as before in the settlement of the country and other affairs, came from Nana, and Balloo Mirza delivered them to Apa Chitnavis to be forwarded. Tatya Patel represented that Nana with a view to the adjustment of affairs and the good order of the country had forwarded a letter to Ali Bahadur desiring him to issue injunctions to the Zemindars and others not to create any disturbance in the country, and should any disturbance arise that he and Gopal Bhow should write to prevent interruption to the affairs of the Sircar. Also letters to Tukojee Holkar and Ahalya Bai informing them

of the death of Sindia and desiring them to prevent any disturbance from arising. It appears to be in agitation at Poona that at present with a view to preserve good order in the country a *Khilat* of mourning and one of investiture (*Sarfarazee*) should be conferred on Dawlat Row and that after having ascertained how Sindia's officers are disposed and who takes upon him to pay up the troops, an application be made for a *khilat* of dismission, the *Fazilat* be set aside, and the Sarkar's *nazrana* be demanded ; moreover that country be divided ; that after having adjusted these points with them (the Sardars) a *Khilat* of dismission be given.)

The Sardars met in the Patil's Dewan-khana ; a letter was forwarded to Gopal Bhow requiring him immediately on the receipt of it to accomodate matters at Datia and other places, and proceeding to Dehli encamp within 2 *Kos* of the city. While consulting on a plan for paying the troops, they received intelligence of Dawlat Row Sindia's approach, and shortly after he joined them. After remaining some time, he went into the Mahal to console the women. After his return to the Dewan-khana Sir Charles Malet came to condole ; the Peshwa and Nana also came, and spoke in terms of encouragement to Apa Chitnavis. The Peshwa then turning to Dawlat Row Sindia told him to be without apprehension, that all would turn out well. Dawlat Row answered that he had been supported by the kindness of the Patil and that now he must have recourse to the Peshwa's protection, that while his (the Peshwa's) favor was extended towards him, what room could he have for apprehension ?

No. 8.—The Governor General congratulates Daulat Rao Sindhia on his succession and emphasises British friendship.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL,

TO—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

Written, 10th April 1794.

I am favored with your letter (recapitulates that received 2nd instant) and have understood its contents.

I have already on hearing the unhappy event of the death of the late Maharajah, expressed to you the sentiments of regret that I and all the members of this Government felt on the occasion. But notwithstanding the sorrow they must naturally suffer for the loss of so illustrious a Sardar, who showed himself so sincere a friend and well wisher towards this Government, yet as the Peshwa out of his regard to the memory of the deceased has been pleased to nominate you to the superintendence of the affairs hitherto committed to the charge of the late Maharajah, I have no doubt but that agreeably to the sentiments expressed in your friendly

letter which have afforded me a great degree of satisfaction, you will equally with him endeavor to cultivate a mutual attachment and regard ; and you may be assured that this Government are sincerely disposed to maintain the same friendly connection with you in every respect.

I beg leave to congratulate you on this occasion and to assure you that the kindness and liberality manifested in this instance by the Peshwa towards the House of the late Maharajah has afforded me a great degree of satisfaction. As I consider you now in the same light as the late Maharajah, I trust that the same friendly correspondence will be kept up between us and that you will constantly gratify me with letters notifying your welfare. Sir C. W. Malet, who will have the pleasure to deliver you this, will communicate farther particulars on my part.

No. 9.—Palmer received Lord Cornwallis's orders to reside in Sindhia's camp only but not in that of his deputies in Hindustan. He proposes a visit to the Emperor at Delhi, as a means of getting correct news and also of meeting the Maratha agents in the North without loss of dignity. Activity of Mughal and Hindustani mercenaries in Gujarat.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 8th December 1794.

The absence of Dawlat Row Sindia and the uncertain state of his administration in Hindostan determined me to defer passing into the Maratha territories until either his return, the settlement of his ministry or the urgency of affairs should render my presence at his Durbar or in his Camp necessary or expedient.

Lakhwa Dada and Chittoo [= Jagu] Bapoo, being now apparently settled in the authority delegated to them by Dawlat Row and these Sardars having earnestly requested of me to repair to their camp, I should readily comply with their desire, but am restrained by orders which I received from Marquis Cornwallis (dated 9th August 1791) in consequence of the late Mahadjee Sindia's departure for Poona, to retire and remain within the Vizir's Dominions during his absence, His Lordship expressing his opinion that it was not proper the Company's Resident should attend any of Sindia's subordinate Officers.

I am sensible that the reason assigned by His Lordship must apply to the present occasion, but the situation of affairs both in Hindoostan and Deccan may induce you to dispense with a rigid observance of the order for the purposes either of conciliating the attachment of Dawlat Row and

his ministers or of obtaining more authentic and accurate information of the state and views of the Maratha Government and the surrounding Powers in Hindostan.

The Naibs of Dawlat Row in desiring my attendance, no doubt expect to derive additional consequence by the appearance of consideration and respect which it would imply from our Government, and probably to check some attempts which they suppose might be encouraged by our apparent indifference or neglect from the tributary Rajahs, or neighbouring independent states.

It is for you, Sir, to decide whether such advantages may be expected from indulging them in this request as will compensate for a deviation from the usual attention to the dignity of Government, and I hope to be early honored with your commands on the subject. I will, however, take the liberty to suggest an expedient by which the first may be obtained and the latter avoided, which is that I should proceed to Delhi for the ostensible purpose of presenting in person the credentials which I have received from you and the Vizir to the King. The Maratha Sardars purpose to march to the Capital, and I may there transact business and have as frequent interviews with them as they may wish without the appearance of residing at their Durbar, and this kind of communication may probably be maintained until Dowlat Row Sindia comes into Hindostan, as the neighbourhood of Delhi is, at this juncture, the station most important for the security of the Maratha power and influence.

It is with great satisfaction I can inform you of the ready attention shown by the new deputies of Dawlat Row and by every officer under their authority to the requisitions of the Nabob Vizir respecting any aid or supplies being permitted to pass their districts to the Rohillas in insurrection, and of the very cordial and friendly answers given by Dawlat Row himself to the Vazir's letter on the same subject.

Bhow Bakhshy, the Dewan of Dawlat Row Sindia, assures me that he and the other new ministers are very desirous of seeing an amicable adjustment of the differences between the Peshwa and the Nabob Nizam Ali Khan, but with little hope of effecting it.

I have received advice from a person formerly in my employ but at present in the service of Najaf Ali Khan, son of the late Muhamed Beg Khan Hamadany, that this Chief is now on his march to Gujerat with a force of 12 or 15,000 horse and foot for the purpose of assisting Malhar Row, a refractory zemindar of that province, against Govind Row Guikwar the Subahdar; that Najaf Ali has collected this force in Hindostan and it is chiefly composed of Moguls and Rohillas and commanded by Chiefs, formerly in the service of the Nabob Najaf Khan, or their descendants who have remained in obscurity or concealment since the establishment

of the Maratha power ; that Malhar Row has remitted to Najaf Ali a sum sufficient to subsist his troops until their junction, and informs him that he has already been successful in an action or skirmish with the troops of Govind Row, who is in consequence preparing a larger force to attack him.

This is the first intelligence which I have received of any commotions in Gujerat, and as they may become very serious, by the introduction of such body of troops as Najaf Ali is conducting to the assistance of the insurgents, even allowing their numbers to be greatly exaggerated in the report, I have thought it sufficiently material for your information, both as it may affect the general tranquillity in the Deccan, and as showing the facility with which great numbers of needy adventurers and veteran soldiers may be raised in these countries for any service in which they can obtain subsistence.

No. 10.—Tukoji Holkar arrives at Poona, broken down in health. He actually died on 15th August 1797.

FROM—SIR C. W. MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, 19th December 1794.

Since addressing you on the 15th inst. I have been honored with your commands of the 27th ultimo and have the pleasure to acquaint you that the unwarrantable jealousy of this Court seems to have been for some time past yielding to an unsolicited return of that rational confidence and good understanding which our conduct has been uniformly calculated to merit and command throughout your and your predecessor's administration.

Tukojee Holkar arrived in the neighbourhood of this city on the 16th instant, when according to custom the Peshwa went out to receive him.

The ceremony of a mutual visit formerly took place between this Chieftain and me, but if it can be waived with propriety I do not mean to repeat so expensive a ceremony.

No accounts that have reached me of his force exceed 6,000 fighting men, but his plundering followers are, it is said, numerous.

I am given to understand that he is much shaken by age and by the disasters of his unsuccessful rivalship with the late Mahadji Sindia. If so, there may be probability of this Chiefship soon falling as completely under the disposal and influence of this Court, as the Sindian by the same fate of its Head.

No. 11.—Miserable condition of North India under Maratha dominion. Policy of Sindhia's officers in Hindustan.

FROM—W. PALMER, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Mathura, 6 April 1795.

I have been to the Mahratta Camp where I remained several days during which I had frequent interviews with Lacawa Dada and Chittoo Bapoo, the Naibs of Dowlat Row Sindia. Those Sirdars expressed very great satisfaction at my visit, as it has removed the appearance of distrust between your Government and that of the Marathas in Hindostan, which in their apprehension, would have been caused by a total cessation of personal intercourse during the important contest in which the State is engaged in the Deccan.

I assured them that the suspension of my residence in their territories had no reference to the peculiar situation of their affairs in the Deccan, and desired them to confide in your entire impartiality in the impending dispute between two Powers equally connected with your Government by alliance and friendship.

The officers who have lately succeeded to the administration of the Maratha affairs in Hindustan found them in a state of very alarming disorder; the revenues grossly mismanaged or embezzled and the collections so reduced as to be very inadequate to the expenses of Government. The Deccan troops and Hindostani Irregulars mutinous and disaffected for want of pay, and with difficulty restrained from the greatest outrages by the corps under M. DeBoigne; the tributary Rajahs retaining their respective contributions and preparing to resist the future exaction of them; the Sikhs ready to invade and ravage the western provinces, and probably both that nation and the numerous Rajpoot Princes meditating the acquisition of more solid and durable advantages from the war between the Peshwa and the Nabob Nizam Aly Khan.

I am of opinion that their situation would have been too arduous for their strength and resources, had the defeat of their army in the Deccan encouraged a general combination of the native Powers of Hindostan against them; and that such a combination would in that event have taken place, I have been well assured.

The impatience with which those Powers always bear the encroachments and impositions of the Marathas is at this time greatly heightened by the heavy exactions which the Naibs of Dowlat Row have been compelled by their pecuniary distresses to make upon the Rajahs of Bharatpore and

Machery, to whom the late Sindia was indebted for his safety and the recovery of his power, after his defeat in Jaypore [at Lalsot.]

The Rajah of the last-mentioned district had made some progress towards levying a formidable body of troops, but has been checked in his design by the intelligence of the Peshwa's success, and Lacawa Dada is marching towards Jaynagar to enforce the dismissal of the new levies which the Rajah has made, and the payment of arrears of tribute both to the King and to Sindia amounting to 15 Lacks of rupees.

It may indeed be expected from the vindictive and presumptuous spirit of the Marathas, that on the return of Dowlat Row's troops, victorious from the Deccan, measures will be attempted to curb effectually this refractory disposition of the Hindostan Chiefs and either to retain them in complete subjection or entirely to annul their power.

These objects however do not appear to be easily attainable; a general union of the tributary Chiefs in opposition, would of itself be very formidable, and probably would be aided by the Sikhs or Powers, who dread the ambition and capacity of the Marathas.

There can be little doubt but the views of the late Sindia in assuming the character of Minister of the Mogul Government were of the most extensive nature, and comprehended a revival of the claims of the Emperor to all the ancient powers and privileges possessed by his ancestors. Such claims would probably have been gradual and regulated by the imbecility of those states against which they are supposed to exist, but never relinquished or lost sight of.

The office held by Mahadjee Sindia in the Mogul Empire, having been transferred to his son and successors and subordinate to the Peshwa as before, the same objects are most probably retained in the exercise of it. A confirmation of the system has recently occurred, in the renewal of a demand of payment of a *tankha* granted by the King to the late Patel upon the Nabob Nizam, since the defeat of the latter by the Peshwa, and as one of the articles of a treaty of peace. I do not however apprehend that this policy can be pursued with much prospect of success on this side of India, unless the Powers who may be obnoxious to it, should be so inattentive to their mutual interests, as to be indifferent to its progress against each other.

(If a judgment may be formed of the power and policy of the Maratha State from their Government in Hindostan, it is but ill-qualified for permanent conquest or civil administration, however formidable may be the means which it possesses of ravage and devastation. The whole country under its subjection from the Chambal to the Ganges is in the most miserable state of neglect and disorder, the lands deserted and the cultivation so scanty as scarcely to supply subsistence to the remaining

inhabitants, the roads infested with numerous bands of robbers to such a degree as to render them impassable but to strong escorts, particularly in the neighbourhood of Delhi, where they are so formidable as to set the forces of the Government at defiance and to menace even the city itself.

In this disgraceful and ruinous condition of the country and Government, a large army is employed in seeking its own subsistence by exacting unjust contributions from the defenceless Rajahs of Hindostan, instead of repressing the violences and depredations committed in their own territories and protecting their own subjects and revenue.

I perceived in the course of my conversation with the Maratha Sirdars a jealousy of any intercourse or connection with the King from our Government, and though they were satisfied that my visit to His Majesty was only complimentary, they would have been better pleased if I had dispensed with making it. As they could not decently oppose my journey, they endeavoured to divert me from it by offers of providing me with suitable accommodations for my residence at any other place ; I did not choose to yield to their wishes on this point, as it might have been considered as an acknowledgment of their right to exclude all other Powers from communication with the King.)

They were very urgent with me to apply for your permission to make some place in Sindia's Dominions my abode until he comes into Hindostan. If you are of opinion that this request may be granted in the present circumstances of the Maratha State, without detriment to the interest or dignity of your Government, it may obviate any jealousy which might arise from my remaining at Dehli, and remove the distrust which would be excited in their minds by my withdrawing from their territories.

I am as yet unable to prosecute my journey to Dehli, my escort being too weak for my protection against the formidable banditti on the roads. I had the honor to mention to you in person the insufficiency of my guard to protect my property in a country where the greatest part of the inhabitants subsist by nightly depredation and pillage. It requires half the escort on guard at a time every night in camp, and the sepoys are harassed and worn down by the frequent return of duty, which laborious as it is, does not entirely secure our effects. Permit me, Sir, to hope, that a situation which exposes me and every person attached to my Residency to frequent losses and which all have more or less experienced, will engage your favourable attention to my former personal application, for replacing my guard upon its original establishment before reduced by Lord Cornwallis, and which will augment the present one by only one Havildar and one Naik and 44 sepoys.

No. 12.—Palmer describes his interview with the blind Emperor and the condition and policy of Sindhia's officers in Hindustan.

FROM—MAJOR W. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Delhi, 7th May 1795..

At my first audience His Majesty [Shah Alam II] expressed the highest satisfaction at your having directed me to repair to his Darbar, as every instance of the respect and consideration shown to him by the English Government and the Wazir has, in his opinion, a favourable influence on the conduct of those upon whom he is reduced principally to depend for the small portion of dignity or comfort of which he can now form any reasonable expectation.

The suspicious character of the Marathas induces them to hold the King in greater restraint, both political and personal, than is consistent with the views which they are supposed to entertain, of asserting in his name the dormant or obsolete claims of the Mughal Empire upon the Princes and Powers of Hindustan. They do not seem to be aware that by depriving him of the exercise of his will, they furnish an unanswerable objection to their assumption of his authority.

His Majesty neither entertains a hope nor expresses a wish of future political power or independence; all he desires is to be the master of his own family, with such a competent and honourable establishment for his support as the revenue actually collected in his name will admit.

Daulat Rao's army in Hindustan is on the point of marching into Jaipur to compel the Rajah to discharge his arrears of tribute and to disband a new raised corps of regular infantry. There can be little doubt of the Rajah's submission in both articles.

The Sikhs have made no irruptions into the Doab this season, nor is there any appearance that they intend it. I learn indeed that they are confined to their own province by internal dissensions between some of the many chiefs of which the nation consists.

No. 13.—Daulat Rao Sindhia's account of the battle of Kharda.

FROM—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Received, 5th May 1795.

I before wrote you an account of a disagreement having occurred between the Peshwa and the Nawab Nizam Ali Khan on various points of a pecuniary

and territorial nature, of the embodying of troops on both sides,' of my being nominated in consequence of the great dependence placed in the equipment of my troops and my being ready provided with all warlike stores to form the advance and bear the brunt of the war, and my consequent march from my encampment at Poona.

Subsequent to this, notwithstanding the delegates on both sides entered into negotiation for a settlement of disputes, points, and pacification, nothing decisive took place and the Nawab with a large army consisting of 1,00,000 Cavalry and 50,000 Infantry with a vast train of artillery and great quantities of military stores, which he had been collecting at Bider for two years before with an hostile intention, marched to oppose (the Peshwa's troops). When at the distance of 15 coss the Peshwa deputed me and Jivaji Bakshi with a flying army consisting of some cavalry, the troops with Major Perron and other battalions to encamp in advance, and his intention was when hostilities should commence to follow with his army. Accordingly on the 19 Shabaan [11 March] at 12 o'clock of the day, an engagement took place with cannon and musquetry which lasted till a *pas* (three hours) of the day remaining. After which, from the excess of valor the troops of Major Perron and the battalions though scattered here and there, moved from their stations and placing the guns on their carriages advanced towards them; whilst the gunners showed the utmost activity in keeping up a spirited and effective fire upon the enemy, on the other side the Cavalry charged with the greatest bravery and breaking the ranks of the Nawab's army, were completely victorious; a great number of the enemy fell in the action, among them several officers on whom the Nawab depended and who were in the front of his army. At this time a large body of *pindaris*, that is to say plunderers, seeing the opportunity attacked the baggage of the Nawab's army, plundered men, women and cattle. I had not then joined the victorious troops. When the Nawab seeing their courage and intrepidity and finding himself no longer able to keep the field, took to flight with the utmost terror, leaving artillery and other military stores upon the field of battle, and the conquerors pursued him to the fort of Kardah, which is two *kos* from the field of battle, and complete victory crowned their standards. In the meantime, night coming on and the Nawab with the remains of this troops which the sword had spared, having taken refuge in the fort, the pursuers were induced from a principle of prudence (since in the midst of such darkness there is no distinguishing a friend from an enemy) to desist and contented themselves with surrounding the Nawab's Camp. As the very first engagement shewed that the Nawab had no power to make resistance and all his army were panic struck at the valor and intrepidity they had witnessed, he in the morning sent vakeels with the utmost submission with proposals of adjustment and pacification, and sent earnest messages to put a stop to the fire of the artillery and prevent the advance of the victorious troops. As princes of exalted minds have no other view in

entering into hostilities but to acquire reputation and to bend powerful equals to submission, the Peshwa listened to the humble supplications of the vakeels, and accordingly negotiation is commenced and the Nawab has delivered up Musheer-ul-Mulk. Although you will, no doubt, have been informed of the particulars of all these circumstances from the newspapers, yet as there is no difference whatever between the Sirkars and it is requisite to communicate all affairs whatever, but particularly such agreeable tidings of success and victory as these, which are calculated to afford you pleasure and satisfaction, I have summarily stated them. Deeming me solicitous for news of your welfare, I hope etc., etc.

No. 14.—Begam Samru seeks permission to retire to British India.

FROM—ZEB-UN-NISA BEGAM, WIDOW OF SOMBRE,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Received, 22nd April 1795.

I cannot sufficiently express my sense of the honor you have done me in returning an answer with presents to the letter [dated 16th June 1794] I took the liberty to transmit to you through Padre Gregorie, to whose verbal communication I committed the objects I had in view. May the Almighty with his kind disposition ever fulfill all your desires. From the goodness you were pleased to manifest with respect to me I am confident that my present wish will through your kindness meet with a favorable reception. The object I have in sending the Padre was this, that being worn out and oppressed by years and by worldly care, I may be permitted to reside either in Bengal or Bihar wherever the Gentlemen of Council may think proper to direct, where I shall not fail to maintain due obedience to their orders, but shall on all occasions [act] in strict conformity to their wishes. The Padre, however, forgot this and has returned without success in the object of his going. I now take the liberty to transmit an *arzee* to the address of the Gentlemen of the Council with this letter to yours. Kindness demands that by your intervention my *arzee* may receive the signature of approval.*

*Note.—At this time Begam Samru was carrying on a love intrigue with her French Captain LeVassoult, and knew that her soldiers would rise against her and her lover if they discovered it. Their secret marriage and flight from Sardhana, their suicide pact, and the death of LeVassoult (12th October, 1795) when pursued by her soldiery are described in B. N. Banerji's *Begam Samru* and Sleeman's *Rambles and Recollections*, Vol. II, Ch. 27.

No. 14A.—**Begam Samru seeks permission to retire and live under British protection in Bengal or Bihar.**

FROM—ZEB-UN-NISA BEGAM, WIDOW OF SOMBRE,

TO—GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

Written circa 2nd April 1795.

Received 22nd April 1795.

I am desirous of living under the protection of the English Government and of residing in some assigned place in Bengal or Bihar. I will act with the strictest conformity to the orders of the Gentlemen of Council and will demean myself as a subject. My life has hitherto been a scene of difficulties and distress ; it is now verging towards the close ; and thro' age I am unable to support these difficulties any longer. Hence, I wish to retire and to pass the remainder of my life under the mild protection of the English Government and to extend [? enjoy] its protection which is my only prospect of support.

No. 15.—**Begam Samru begs for a reply from the Governor General to her friendly letters.**

FROM—ZEB-UN-NISA, WIDOW OF SOMBRE,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Written 6th May 1795.

Received 10th June 1795.

It is long since I have been favored with letters containing good accounts of your health. Be the cause favorable. The attentions you have bestowed on me are indescribable. May God long suffer the world to be adorned with these good and amiable qualities ! I have despatched by Mr. Le Vassoult a letter written in the European character dictated by me and dated 6th May 1795. Be assured of this and rely on the truth of its contents. Deeming me a firm adherent and hearty well-wisher, deign to honour me with letters containing good accounts of your health and pleasing intelligence together with any commands that may suit with this quarter, which I shall be particularly happy in carrying into effect.

No. 16.—Rajah Ranjit Singh of Lahore wants to open friendly relations with the English Company.

FROM—RAJAH RANJIT SINGH, ONE OF THE SIKH CHIEFS,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Received 20th May, 1795.

From the information I have received of your great and intrinsic excellences I have a long time involuntarily been solicitous of establishing a friendship with you, but without some ostensible plea this was not to be done.

Throughout the material world among the precious things by which the affairs of men are duly ordered, the cultivation of disinterested friendship is the first ; and this is the wish of my heart that through the means of some Chief I may form a connection with the Company's Government. At this time Capt. Murray has arrived in this province for the purpose of buying horses for the Company's cavalry, and I have contracted an acquaintance with him. I therefore write to request that, founding an unity of interest upon the basis of friendship, if you will now and then gratify me by kind letters and your commands in any thing wherein I can be of service, it were not inconsistent with friendship. By the favor of God in the event of a correspondence being opened, attachment and regard may daily increase.

No. 17.—Bellassis and Arnott, two military adventurers, are desired by the British to leave the service of Ali Bahadur in Bundelkhand, and return to Oudh.

FROM—RAI MUKUND LAL, BRITISH VAKIL,

TO—G. F. CHERRY, RESIDENT AT LUCKNOW.

5th July 1795.

Ali Bahadur sent for me and informed me that from a regard to the friendship of the English Government he had nothing farther to say to Mr. Arnott etc., but had discharged them. In consequence they had formed strange resolutions. If they go to the Resident at Lucknow with a goodwill it is very well, but if they join the people of Bundelcund it will be a source of great disturbance, and he desired me to write this to you and to request a speedy answer. I have done it accordingly. Aly Bahadur has not delayed a moment to give Messrs. Arnott and Bellassis their discharge. He did it the day of my arrival. The delay

arises from the declarations of Messrs. Arnott and Belassis who observe that two lacs of rupees are due to them besides what they have received, but that they have stationed conveyances to go to Lucknow by the way of Cawnpore. I understand also that they have other designs, I will inform you what happens.

FROM—G. F. CHERRY, RESIDENT AT THE VIZIR'S COURT ;

TO—RAI MUKUND LAL.

Lucknow, 10th July 1795.

I have received your arzie dated 5th July. Prior to the receipt of it, Mr. Arnott arrived here and it is reported that Mr. Bellasis is arrived at Cawnpore. This however is not certain. If it should prove so, that [is] if both Messrs. Arnott and Belassis have left the Camp of Aly Bahadur, you will report the arrival of Mr. Arnott at Lucknow to Aly Bahadur and demanding an answer to my letter, come away. If Mr. Bellasis be still there, you will let me know.

FROM—ALI BAHADUR,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT THE VIZIR'S COURT.

Received 12th July 1795.

Several letters have been received relative to my not detaining Mr. Arnott. Before this intelligence was known Mr. Arnott came of himself to me and said that he understood that the General's letters were arrived not to keep him ; that he was not desirous that any difference should arise between the Peshwa and the Company on his account and that he should of his own accord go to the Resident at Lucknow, but that he had assembled three battalions. Mr. Arnott was the Master and tho' he had received invitations from various quarters, he had accepted of none but had set out to go to you.

No. 18.—Suspected poisoning of Shah Alam II. (News-letter.).

Delhi, 18th-20th July 1795.

His Majesty about noon of the 18th July, on laying himself down, was suddenly seized with a violent pain in his stomach which was succeeded

by vomiting and looseness which occasioned him to faint away. He recovered his senses a short time afterwards, but after half an hour was again seized with vomiting attended with blood of which a very large quantity flowed, and he again sunk into a state of insensibility, so that he was thought to be no more. The greatest lamentations were made throughout the palace, and the Killadar stationed troops to prevent the confusion and disorders which the event might occasion. Prayers were immediately read in the Mosque and alms distributed. In the meantime His Majesty came to himself and endeavoured to comfort those about him. At about 9 o'clock at night he was again attacked with the disorder and passed a great quantity of blood, which again occasioned him to faint. After half an hour he recovered his senses.

At day-break on the 19th His Majesty found himself somewhat better and made his appearance (on his bed however) in the Dewan-Khana, when the courtiers attended and all offered up alms for his recovery, as did the royal family. Altho' at this time also he was twice affected and passed a great quantity of blood, yet not such a degree as on the preceding day. He found himself however extremely weak. The physicians administered medicine to him.

At about eleven o'clock on the 19th His Majesty took an opportunity to address his son Mirza Muhammad Akbar Shah in the following terms, "I have now but little hope of life. Should my life be spared, I will still support it as I have hitherto done, but if the cup of fate is now full, to that fate must I resign. You know very well that Ghulam Kadir left nothing with the Begams, with my children or my relations, and they have been maintained by what I have been enabled to give them out of the little I myself received. It will be your duty therefore when I am no more to support and maintain them. Further, Muhammad Ekram, Aboo Muhammad &c., have been invariably zealous and faithful in the discharge of their duty; they are not in possession of any overplus of my funds, but on the contrary there is a balance due in Muhammad Ekram's favor. I therefore desire that you will not call them to account for supposed savings". His Majesty then addressed himself to Muhammad Ekram afresh in these terms, "Whatever balance is due to you from me, if I live I will repay, if not let it be remitted for my sake." After this discourse he found himself much exhausted. The women of the Mahal and the princes having sent a message soliciting admittance, he received them, distributed money among them, and endeavored to comfort them. Alms were continued to be distributed. His Majesty afterwards was carried to his sleeping apartment, and in the course of the night was affected but once and there no blood passed.

On the morning (20th) His Majesty was conveyed to the Dewan Khana and ordered alms to be distributed to the poor, who had assembled.

At twelve o'clock (20th) His Majesty waked from his sleep. He passed some blood, but was better than before. The swelling in his heart and pain in his side were abated. Thro' Ebadoolla Khan, who came on the part of Shah Nizamudin to enquire about His Majesty's health, he sent a message to the Shah in the following terms, "I am a disciple of your grand-fathers. To your care I consign my children and women. Should the former when I am no more be misled, it will be your part to admonish and advise them. It is my wish that the Marathas should retain their superintendence, after my death as before; and in the event of any disturbance happening at Delhi, it is my desire that you quit the place and take my sons along with you". His Majesty continued pretty well the remainder of the day. In the morning His Majesty desired to speak with the Physician Sharif Khan in private, but was overheard asking him what his illness could be with which he had been so suddenly seized, and added that whoever had done this had left nothing undone to effect his purpose, implying a suspicion of his having been poisoned. His Majesty put the same question to Mirza Akbar Shah, who answered that His Majesty was now so weak on account of his not having eaten anything. His Majesty afterwards was carried to the Dewan-Khana, where he endeavoured to eat something, but could not and complained of the fatigue of speaking and lay down.

The origin of His Majesty's illness is said to be this. The Nawab Mobarak Mahl (the mother of Mirza Akbar Shah) had prepared a dish of *Hoteem* (a dish made of stewed wheat and meat), which she sent to His Majesty as a *nazar*, requesting him to eat it. The person who brought it him, after His Majesty had eaten a little of it, requested him to desist, telling him there was a fly in it, upon which His Majesty went away and reposed himself. On waking he found himself extremely ill and going into the Mahl he complained of oppression at the stomach to the Nawab Mobarak Mahl, who gave him some salt and water which occasioned him to vomit and a great quantity of blood issued, but the blood was pure; and from that time His Majesty's health has been such as is described. Had he eaten the whole of the *Hoteem* all would have been over by this.

N.B.—This is the remark of the news-writer. This intelligence the news-writer says he obtained from Mootee Begam, Mirza Akbar Shah's maternal aunt. His Majesty, however, is very cautious upon this head, and has not yet uttered a suspicion of Nawab Mobarak Mahl's having contrived his destruction. The physicians say that there are no hopes of His Majesty's recovery, as his strength is utterly gone. Mirza Bhukka [Hinga] and others of the princes have resolved to murder Mirza Akbar Shah if their father should die.

No. 19—Rajahs of Jaipur and Kota appealed to the Company for protection against Sindhia. Palmer replied in the negative, pointing out the Company's policy of neutrality except in self-defence. European deserters with Ali Bahadur reclaimed.

FROM—MAJOR W. PALMER, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Delhi, 28th May 1795.

Recorded Calcutta 12th June 1795.

I am honoured with your commands dated the 4th instant, and in obedience thereto propose to set out a few days hence on my return to the Nabob Vizir's Dominions and there wait for the arrival of Daulat Rao Sindhia in Hindostan.

Your permission to repeat my visit to the Mahratta sardars occasionally during the absence of Daulat Rao, will, I make no doubt, obviate any uneasiness or distrust which they might otherwise have entertained at my temporary removal from their territories.

As the future security and improvement of the Mahratta establishments in Hindostan and the suppression of the great abuses which now prevail in it, require a respectable and vigorous administration, it is probable that Daulat Rao will be dispatched to his Government immediately after the rains.

I am of opinion that the Poona Darbar will not expose the national settlements and interests in Hindostan to the dangers of a divided authority by joining Ali Bahadur and Holkar, or any other great Chief with young Sindhia, although it is likely that those two sardars will be replaced in the jagirs of which Mahadjee Sindhia dispossessed them.

The Rajpoot and other Hindostany Rajahs regard with great apprehension the increase of the Mahratta Power by their late acquisitions from the Nabob Nizam Ali Khan, which they fear will afford leisure and ability for a design long meditated to extirpate their Government entirely.

Under this impression, two of the most considerable Rajpoot Chiefs, those of Jaypur and Kota, have been induced to send express messengers to me for the purpose of soliciting your interposition to avert the impending danger and to intimate their readiness to enter into engagements of mutual defence with your Government whenever it might be advisable or necessary for your interests or security. They both assert their ability

to furnish and subsist an effective body of cavalry to co-operate with our arms.

The Revenue of Jaypur is reputed to be 80 lacks and that of Kota 50 lacks of rupees. Both are tributary to the Mahrattas, but in so moderate a degree as to make it more eligible to submit to it than to support such a force as would be required to resist with effect. It is the dread of entire subjugation which can alone impel them to serious opposition.

In answer to their messages, I assured them of your cordial regard for the ancient Princes of Hindostan, and of your sincere wishes for their prosperity and independence. But that you were so connected with the Mahratta State by alliance, and by the ties of mutual friendship and good-offices, that you could not with any regard to public faith, or private sentiment, interfere in their proceedings with other States, unless they infringed the rights or security of the Company or its allies.

It would not be difficult for any respectable Power on this side of India which might be involved in a war with the Mahrattas, to form a general confederacy of the Hindostany Chiefs, with whose assistance that nation might be dispossessed of all their settlements to the north of the river Narbada. And I am firmly of opinion that so long as these settlements continue to be an object of their solicitude, so long we may rely upon their adherence to their existing alliance with the Company. They will probably endeavour by secret arts to supplant our influence or to diminish our credit, and perhaps have ever intrigued to that effect at the different Courts of India, but this may be imputed rather to an apprehension of our power, than such a confidence in their own as might encourage them to a rupture with us.

I obtrude my own opinion with diffidence, but I confess that I see little cause for those alarms which I find are almost universally entertained of the designs of the Mahrattas against our interests and safety in consequence of the late aggrandizement of their power in the Deccan, and as little to dread for the event if they should attempt to carry them into execution.

The Rajah of Jaypur has consented to reduce his new raised Brigade of infantry and has adjusted his arrears of tribute to the satisfaction of the Mahratta sardars. These are still occupied in enforcing payment of arrears from other tributary Chiefs. The collections of their own provinces afford nothing towards the subsistence of the army and scarcely defray the expenses of civil government. The weakness of the administration is still evident in the disorder of the country, and even in this city its authority is treated with contempt, by the refusal of the Kiladar to resign the fort to a successor appointed by the deputies of Daulat Rao and who has been near two months arrived here in order to

take charge. The Kiladar is encouraged in his contumacy by the King and Shah Nizam-ud-Din, who apprehend ill-treatment from the character or party connections of the new officer, and have applied to Daulat Rao to annul his appointment.)

Ali Bahadur has not yet answered my requisition for surrendering the persons of Messrs. Arnott and Bellassis, but has admitted those gentlemen to an interview and even taken them to his service, subsequent to the receipt of it, and notwithstanding that my letter stated to him the additional treaty annexed to that of Salbye for the express purpose of excluding fugitive subjects of the Company and Peshwa from asylum or reception in the Dominions of each other.

Mr. Cherry informs me that a person named John Missilbengh [? Misselburg], a foreigner, absconded with Messrs. Bellassis and Arnott, and that these have been since joined by two Europeans from Mirzapur whose names are not known. I have thought it consistent with the intent of your order relative to the two gentlemen first named, to reclaim these persons also from Ali Bahadur in the name of the Company.

The emigration of Europeans to the military service of the Native Princes is become very frequent, and if not checked, may produce very serious consequences in the improvement of their discipline. On this consideration I shall think it my duty to persist in my requisition to Ali Bahadur for the surrender of the above-mentioned persons, should he refuse to comply with that which I have already made, until you shall be pleased to inform me that you have taken more effectual means to secure his observance of the treaty and to recover the dependents of your Government to whom he has given unauthorized protection.

No. 19A.—Palmer ever ready to send north Indian news to the Poona Resident.

FROM—W. PALMER,

TO—SIR C. W. MALET.

Fathgarh, 20th July 1795.

I have been favoured with yours of the 21st ultimo in answer to mine of the 18th May.

It gives me very sincere concern that my inadvertence should have given you cause to suspect me of a disinclination towards an unreserved reciprocal correspondence and communication of events. I most solemnly

assure you that whenever I have been remiss, it has been the effect either of inattention (which is blameable enough) or an opinion that my correspondence with Government was not of sufficient importance to trouble you with ; and that my confidence in you both as a public minister and a gentlemen is, and has been from my earliest knowledge of you, perfectly unlimited. I trust that if I should give you any future reason to complain, you will expostulate with the same freedom and candour which you have used on the present occasion ; and I flatter myself that I shall always be able to convince you, that I do not err intentionally.

I entirely concur in your opinion of the expediency of frequent and explicit communication between the Residents of the British Government at the several Courts of India, or rather of its indispensable necessity in the present awful crisis of the European nations. I shall be happy if such as my station may require me to make, should in the smallest degree tend to promote or secure the public interests or tranquillity.

I have the pleasure to forward herewith a duplicate of my last letter to the Governor General which contains as accurate a relation as I can at this time give, of the state and disposition of the principal Powers of Hindostan. The application to be made by us of their situation and views will most probably be regulated by the conduct which the great States in the Deccan and their Dependents may pursue. In the meantime the attachment and confidence of the former may be retained, without any other intercourse than that already established of civility and mutual good offices unconnected with political objects, and of course no ground of distrust will be afforded to the latter.

Bhow Bakshy has lately intimated to me that Dowlat Row Sindia wishes me to meet him at Ujjain, where he purposes to remain a few days on his way to Hindostan. I suspect that his residence in that city is intended to be of much longer duration, if not general. He can hardly expect I should make such a journey merely for the purpose of meeting him there and to return immediately. But of the policy or necessity of his making that his place of residence, you will be better informed than I am.

The news-papers will show the wretched management of the Maratha Sirdars in Hindostan and the shifts to which they are reduced to procure subsistence for their troops. I have little apprehension that their power in this quarter will ever be a subject for serious alarm to us.

The Sikhs have not entered the Doab this season ; I understand that they are fully occupied by their internal dissensions. Their State is divided into such a number of petty Chiefships and all agitated by separate interests, that it can never be formidable to its neighbours. And it is very likely to revert to the kingdom of Cabul, if Zaman Shah should overcome all his competitors.

Mr. Uthhoff has been very attentive and obliging in sending me the latest Europe intelligence, as well as copies of his last public dispatches.

I sincerely wish that you may have recovered your health at Bombay.

No. 20. —Malet's reflections on the Bundelkhand developments and their threat to the British Indian interests.

FROM—SIR C. W. MALET,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Bombay, 22nd July 1795.

Nothing here has occurred to trouble you with since my last address of the 27th ultimo. My last letters from Mr. Uthhoff mentioned a report of the capture of Baraghur by Aly Bahadur which I shall be very sorry to have confirmed, as I cannot help looking on the extension of the Maratha power and influence in that quarter with a very jealous eye ; and under this impression it may be difficult to calculate the evils that Messrs. Arnott and Bellassis are (probably very unconsciously) drawing on their country, for I think it reasonable to conclude that they may have been very instrumental to Aly Bahadur's success, if he has succeeded on the present occasion, and will if permitted to remain with him, continue to be so, his perception of which is pretty clearly evinced by his reluctance to part with them, and his allotment of a *jaidad* for their maintenance even during the agitation of your demand for their surrender. The Maratha conquests in Bundelkhand present the danger of an easy access to the very centre of our territories and to a part (I mean the city of Benares) to which they are allured by a variety of attractions, the evils of which are increased by their already being in contact with our N.W. and S.E. frontiers, with latent claims of royal tribute and Maratha *Chouth* not only on Bengal but for the latter on the Carnatic also, and with pretensions to Kora and Allahabad, which they will not hesitate to bring forward whenever circumstances may give them a prospect of success, which prospect will certainly be greatly brightened by a continuation of Ali Bahadur's success and by the present apparent subjection of the great Maratha Chiefs to the views of the Brahmin Power. The country news-papers mentioned the probability of a meeting between the Vizier and Aly Bahadur and that at the latter's request Mr. Arnott's wife had been permitted to proceed to join her husband with stores, etc., which appears strange after the exception taken by Government to Mr. Arnott's conduct. I likewise observe some symptoms of umbrage in the Poona Ministry at some supposed intercourse

of Major Palmer with Shah Alam, in consequence of which and of the miserable condition to which that unfortunate Prince is reduced, there seems to have been some particular conferences with Dowlat Row's Ministers. It occurs to me that should the delivery of Messrs. A. & B. be evaded by the Poona Government or its subordinate Aly Bahadur, no evil could arise from desiring the good offices of Dowlat Row Sindia as guarantee of the engagements on that head. By which we might at least discover in an unexceptionable way the dependence to be in future placed on the power and politics of that branch of the [Maratha] Empire and thence draw useful hints for the regulation of our conduct both to the Poona and Sindian Durbars. I had a return of my fever on the last full moon, but have hitherto escaped it on the change.

No. 21.—British aid refused to Ali Bahadur. Movements of Bellassis.

FROM—G. F. CHERRY, RESIDENT AT LUCKNOW,

TO—ALI BAHADUR, MARATHA CHIEF IN BUNDELKHAND.

Lucknow, 19th August 1795.

I have received your letter, [on 16th August]. I have written fully to Mahtab Roy [a news-writer] in reply to your message thro' him, and it appears by your letter that he has made you informed of my answer. In reply to your application for troops to punish Mr. Bellassis who has joined Tej Singh of Serulla, I trust that you are already informed that the Company is on terms of peace and friendship with all the Chiefs of Hindostan. Rajah Hindoopat during his life, and since his death Rajah Dhokal Sing, has held a correspondence with the Government at Calcutta. It will therefore be contrary to friendship to send the Company's troops there. In consideration of your friendliness, I shall immediately inform the Governor General of every particular and obey his orders in reply.

No. 22.—Sindhia's troops under Lakhwa Dada conquer Kerauli State.

FROM—W. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 25th August 1795.

I have just received advice that Doulat Row Sindia had his audience of leave of the Peshwa with the usual ceremony of *khillats* presented to himself

his ministers and officers on the 19th Mohurram [5th August] and purposed, to commence his march for Hindoostan immediately after the Hindoo Festival of Janam Ashtamy [? 6th September].

The Maratha forces under Lakhwa Dada have reduced the strong fort of Sabalgarh belonging to the Rajah of Kerowly, and have proceeded to invest Bijaigarh, another place of considerable strength belonging to the same Rajah.

It is generally believed to be the intention of the Maratha Sirdars to dispossess the Rajah of his dominions entirely, which is probably a prelude to the subversion of all the other independent Governments of Rajpootana upon the arrival of Doulat Row.

The Rajah of Jaypore seems hitherto have taken but little concern in the fate of his neighbour and relation ; but the total subjection of the Rajah of Kerowly could hardly fail to rouse him and the other great Rajpoot chieftains of Jodhpore and [Macheri] to a sense of their common danger and to unite them in resistance to further encroachment.

If such designs and such opposition to them should take place, they will give full employment and for a considerable time, to the Maratha Power on this side of India and secure tranquillity to the countries on the east of the Jamna.

No. 23.—Sindhia supersedes Gopal Bhau in command.

FROM—JAMES MACPHERSON, ACTING RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—G. F. CHERRY, RESIDENT AT LUCKNOW.

Fathgarh, 5th October 1795.

By accounts received yesterday, it appears that Gopal Rao Bhau, in consequence of information of his being superseded in the government of Hindustan, and the repeated and increasing clamours of his troops for their arrears, has left his own and taken the protection of General De Boigne's Camp. Notwithstanding this change, he still retains the nominal command until the arrival of his successor.

No. 24.—News of Daulat Rao Sindhia's doings in Poona. Lakhwa Dada captures Narwar city and its Rajah. De Boigne retiring. Begam Samru made prisoner by her troops.

FROM—W. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 24th October 1795.

I have received a letter from Dowlat Row Sindia acquainting me with his intention to proceed for Hindostan immediately after the Dassera, but without any mention of his expectation of seeing me at Ujjain, although he had received advice from me of your permission for my attendance on him at the city, if he should require it.

Bhow Bakshy[•] has at the same time informed me of the conditions to which his master acceded with the Peshwa on his departure from Poona. They are the same as stated to you by Mr. Uhthoff in his address of the 29th ultimo with the exception of the balance claimed by Mahadjee Sindia being still in discussion.

I learn from good authority that Dowlat Row reposes but little confidence in his present ministers and that they are not on very cordial terms among themselves. The young chief appears to be of a pertinacious disposition and that degree of impression from others of which he is susceptible, is engrossed by females of his family and his domestics.

Mr. Perron's Brigade has marched from the confines of the Nabob Nizam Aly Khan's Dominions towards Burhanpoor, at which place it is to wait the arrival of Dowlat Row.

This circumstance seems irreconcilable to any hostile designs in contemplation at Poona against the Nizam or any other Power.

The army under Lakwa Dada has taken the city of Narwar by storm, and captured the Rajah in the attack. The latter event, however, is not likely to be followed by the surrender of the fort which commands the important pass of Narwar and is deemed impregnable, as it is in possession of the Rajah's son, who has long been at variance with his father.

Lakhwa Dada will next proceed with the Maratha army to enforce payment of tribute from the Rajah of Datia, with whom he is likely to have a very serious conflict if we may judge from the vigorous resistance which he made to the last attack, and the preparation which he has made against that now meditated.

Whether the supineness of the Rajpoot chiefs may be ascribed to insensibility to the apparent designs of the Marathas to reduce them in

detail, to distrust of each other, or to a consciousness of any confederacy being ineffectual, it is likely to be attended by the total subversion of their Government.

A very considerable change in the strength and arrangement of Dowlat Row's troops will I believe soon take place; M. De Boigne being determined to retire, the establishment for the subsistence of the corps under his command will be annulled, and one of his brigades be dismissed; the other will probably be reduced into independent battalions.

The motives to these regulations are partly economical, but principally a jealousy of so much power and independence in the hands of an European, nor is there any person in Sindia's service of talents or respectability adequate to so important a charge.

New levies of 5 or 6 battalions of sepoys are making at Agra, probably as a provision against the reduction intended to be made in De Boigne's Brigades.

A defection of two battalions of sepoys in the service of the Begam widow of Samru has taken place in consequence of an attempt of M. Le Vassault to supersede the officer in command of them in favour of his own nephew. These corps quitted their station at a few coss from Delhi, marched to that city and put themselves under the orders of Zafar-yab Khan the (son) of Sumroo by a former wife, and whom the Begum had excluded from the succession of his father's jagir. He is reported to be a man of weak understanding and worthless character.

I understand that the discontent is general among the raiats and troops under the Begam's authority on account of the uncontrollable power which she permits M. Le Vassault to exercise, who is a man of violent and imperious disposition.

The Peshwa having required from Shah Alam a confirmation or renewal of the offices of Vakeel-ul-Mutlak and Ammeer-ul-Omrah, I have procured a copy of the *firman* dispatched in consequence to Poona, which I have the honour to enclose for your information, as it contains an indirect reflection on our Government and that of the Vizeer, which perhaps has been inserted on suggestion from the Poona Durbar.

P.S.—Since closing the above, intelligence is come in from Delhi of the Begam having attempted to fly from Sardhana in company with M. Le Vassault towards the Maratha districts, on hearing of the revolt of the two Battalions; but was pursued and overtaken at the distance of three coss when M. Le Vassault, finding that he could not escape, shot himself; the Begam was carried back a prisoner to Sardhana. Zafar-Yab Khan marched immediately for that place, on receiving information of these events.

No. 25.—News of the death of Peshwa Madhav Rao Narayan.

Intelligence (Persian news letter) from Daulat Rao Sindhia's camp at Jamgaon, dated the 12th Rabi-us-sani 1210 (=26th October) :—

A paper of news from Poona and a letter from Jivaji Bakhshi dated the 11th Rabi-us-sani (or 25 October) were presented to D. R. S. They stated that the Peshwa being in his sleeping apartment in the third story, it happened that his foot slipped and he fell to the ground, by which accident he received a violent contusion on the leg, his back was broken, and his senses totally failed him. Nana Fadnis stationed troops round the house and gave orders for the like arrangement at various places. Particulars shall be mentioned hereafter.

13th Rabi-us-sani (27th October) The beating the *naubat* before the Peshwa's Palace had ceased and lamentations were heard in the *mahal*. The door of the Palace was shut, while a report prevailed that the Peshwa was dead.

No. 26.—Begam Samru's position. Lakhwa Dada attacks Narwar fort.

FROM—W. PALMER, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—J. UHTHOFF, ASSISTANT TO RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fathgarh, 7th November 1795.

Nothing particular has come to my knowledge respecting the revolution at Sardhana beyond what the newspapers relate. But it seems to be the general opinion that the Begam [Samru] will recover her authority. It is however more probable that the Marathas will make the loss of it a pretext for seizing her *jagir*.

The reduction of the fort of Narwar is an enterprize beyond the strength of Lackwa's army, and I believe that he persists in battering it, only in the hope of obtaining possession by means of dissensions in the garrison.

I received yesterday by express in ten days from Jamgaon, intelligence of the dreadful accident which has befallen the Peshwa, and which if it should prove fatal, will be productive of events which cannot but be highly interesting to our Government.

No. 27.—News of Ali Bahadur being reconciled to Sindhia's northern agents. De Boigne sells his cavalry to the English and leaves India.

FROM—MAJOR WILLIAM PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 6th January 1796.

It is probably with a view to check any design to which the Rajput, and other Indostany chiefs may be excited, by the prospect of dissensions in the Maratha State, to attempt the recovery of their independence, that an interview has lately taken place by direction from Puna between Ali Bahadur and the deputies of Sindhia, after a total cessation of intercourse since the former separated from Mahadji Sindhia. The meeting of these chieftains was conducted with the appearance of much cordiality, and the immediate result was the aid of a body of troops from Ali Bahadur to Lakwa Dada, to co-operate in the exaction of tribute or other contribution from the Governments of Rajputana, and probably in the further design of entirely reducing them, to which indeed the Marathas seem to be making a slow but determined progress. I understand that Ali Bahadur, in return for this aid, is to receive from Sindhia's army a sufficient force for the final reduction of Bundelkhand. These are enterprises in my opinion above their strength in the absence of so large a part of Sindhia's forces [in the Deccan.]

Mr. De Boigne has resigned the service of Daulat Rao Sindhia and is arrived at this station on his way to Calcutta. He informs me that the corps which he commanded is to be continued on its present formation with the *jaidad* assigned for its maintenance confirmed, but under a native collector. No person is to succeed Mr. De Boigne in the command in chief of the two disciplined brigades, but these are separately commanded, the first by Mr. Perron a Frenchman and the second by Mr. Sutherland, lately a volunteer in His Majesty's 73rd Regiment. Neither of these officers are distinguished for talents or respectability of character, and it may be expected that their divided authority and the probable misapplication of the *jaidad* collections, will soon damp the exertions and diminish the reputation of the corps they command. or even produce their final disorganisation.

De Boigne's Regiment of select cavalry, consisting of 500 Mughal troopers [mostly Pathans], including officers, their arms and accoutrements and horses, is his own property. The horses are high priced, Rs. 300—400 each on an average. De Boigne's demand Rs. 400 per head including arms, etc.

Mr. Bellassis has left the Bundelas and has repaired to the camp of Lakwa Dada, where as I learn from the newspapers, he has engaged in the service of Ambaji, one of D. R. S's principal Sardars.

[Note.—De Boigne's offer was accepted at his own price by the Governor General in letter dated Fort William, 18th January 1796.]

SECTION 3

Lakhwa Dada falls into Daulat Rao's disfavour and flees to Oudh. Threats of Zaman Shah Durrani's invasion. Sir John Shore retires. Palmer's Residence with Sindhia ends.—April 1796 to March 1798.

No. 28—News of Lakhwa Dada's movements and plans. Sikh raids in the Doab.

FROM—W. PALMER, RESIDENT WITH D. R. SINDHIA,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 23rd April 1796.

I have the honour to forward a letter to your address under the seals of Zebun-Nisa Begam, and Zafar-Yab Khan which I received from Lieut. Col. Ware, commanding at Anoopshahar, who was doubtful of the propriety of transmitting it to you himself, and is unacquainted with its contents.

Lakhwa Dada having informed me that his immediate destination will be to the westward, and his camp not likely to be stationary until the rains, I have postponed my intended visit to him, judging that my attendance on him during his predatory excursions against the independent states of Hindostan would be inconsistent with the injunctions of Government not to reside with the deputies of Sindia in his absence.

I have informed him that I will attend him whenever his situation is sufficiently fixed to admit of my making a visit without the necessity of following or remaining in his camp.

His present intention is to proceed to Jodhpore, Jaypore, and Kotah, probably only for the purpose of levying contribution. But the Rajahs of those countries seem to be apprehensive that his designs are to make permanent acquisitions of territory, subvert their Government, an enterprize [too] arduous in the present state of the Mahratta force on this side of India, and while Daulat Row is engaged in a serious contest in the Deccan.

The Sikhs who have lately made an irruption into the Doab find such opposition from the Maratha force in Saharanpore as will probably soon oblige them to repass the Jamna and at all events prevent their giving any disturbance to the possessions of the Vizir.

No. 29—Palmer reports on Sindhia's plans in the North and the Deccan, the condition of Begam Samru, and the arrest of Shah Nizam-ud-din at Delhi.

FROM—W. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 4th June 1796.

I have received intelligence by express from Poona that the *Khilat* of investiture having been sent for Chimna Appa from Satara, he was placed on the *musnud* of the Peshwa by Dowlat Rao Sindia, on the 25th of last month. I do not trouble you with a copy of the paper as it contains (except this single fact) only a description of the ceremony used on the occasion.

The great accession of power and wealth which is likely to accrue to Sindia from this successful termination of his efforts to give a ruler to the Maratha State will, I am apprehensive, accelerate the design which has been adopted from his predecessor of strengthening and extending his dominion in Hindostan by the subjugation of every independent Chieftain of the South-Western Provinces.

As this scheme of conquest includes the Sikhs, I hope that the enterprize will prove of sufficient difficulty and duration to divert these destructive marauders of both nations, from disturbing the tranquillity of the countries on this side the Jamna to a very distant period.

The plan of subjecting the petty Governments of the Rajpoots seems to have commenced in the attack on Datia, Lakwa Dada having refused, or evaded all composition with that Rajah.

It is greatly to be lamented that these Chieftains, possessing ample means of resistance in the natural state of the country and the number and bravery of its inhabitants, instead of uniting for their common safety seem to regard with indifference [and the blindness of] faction the destruction of each other in detail.

I am well informed that Nizam-ud-din Subadar of Delhi is to be dismissed, and his office bestowed on Jaswant Row Sindia, a great-grandson of Mahadji Sindia. The sole motive of this change seems to be the raising a peshkash from the new Subadar, and confiscating the wealth of the old one, although the Mahrattas are indebted to the steady attachment and uncommon exertions of the latter for their continuance in Hindostan after the terrible defeat which Sindia sustained at Jaynagar.

To expedients like this, and equally repugnant to good policy and good faith, these people have recourse, rather than to the revenue of their extensive possessions, for the subsistence of their armies, seeming to prefer a temporary and precarious supply from rapine and depredation in other countries, to a regular and permanent revenue arising from protection and encouragement in their own.

I have received from Mr. Edmonstone a copy of the letter which I had the honour to forward to your address under the seals of Zeb-un-nisa Begam, and Zafar-Yab Khan, without knowing its contents, and I am convinced from the tenor of it, that the Begam either had no knowledge of it or was compelled to affix her seals. It is indeed probable they are not in her own custody.

There can be no doubt of her being under restraint both in her person and actions, the King having repeatedly applied in his quality of her adoptive father to take her under his protection, but without effect.

The revolution in the *jagir* [Sardhana] was evidently a usurpation on the part of Zafar-Yab Khan. It has however been connived at by the Maratha Government either from indifference, or the want of opportunity to restore it to the Begam.

I shall gladly embrace any safe mode of conveying your sentiments to the Begam, but I fear that she is too closely watched to admit of any correspondence reaching her but through the hands of her son.

An express is just arrived from Delhi with intelligence of the seizure and confinement of Shah Nizam-ud-Din and his Dewan, which was effected rather by stratagem and surprize than by force, two battalions of De Boigne's corps having been previously detached from the capital for that purpose, but under pretext of proceeding to collect the tribute of Jaypore.

No. 30—Jhau Lal's intrigues with Lakhwa Dada ; other plans and moves of Lakhwa.

FROM—W. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 25th June 1796.

I have received intimation from Mr. Cherry that he has been informed of a correspondence being opened between Rajah Jhau Lal and Lakwa Dada, tending to disturb the tranquillity of the Company's or the Vizir's Dominions.

The character and present peculiar situation of Jhau Lal, his close connection with Himmat Bahadur, a man of deep and dangerous intrigue, and an exile from the Vizir's Dominions, together with the known disposition of the Marathas to embrace every prospect of advantage held out to them, make it far from improbable that some wild prospect of future hostility has been proposed to them by Jhau Lal.

But I am not at all apprehensive that the Marathas in the present state of their power in Hindostan, will engage in so hazardous an enterprize. If they have actually entered into a negotiation of such a nature, it is probably with the insidious intention of deceiving or betraying Jhau Lal for their own interested purposes.

I will strenuously endeavour to discover the truth of the information given to the Resident at Lucknow. But I think that the correspondence, if such has taken place, is more likely to be detected at the Vizir's Durbar, than at that of the Marathas.

Lakwa Dada proceeds with great caution in his attack upon the Rajah of Datia, perhaps with the view of concealing from the surrounding states his design of totally reducing him ; but they have taken the alarm, and I believe meditate a confederacy for their common safety, as indirect applications have been made to me from the Rajah of Jeypore and other Rajpoot Chiefs to know whether they may expect assistance from you if they should unite for the preservation of their independence.

As no hopes of such assistance can be given, I fear that they will progressively fall under the Maratha dominion, although their complete subjugation may be distant, and difficult, and thereby a long tranquillity secured to the countries on the east of the Jumna.

I learn that Dowlat Row Sindia has directed Lakwa Dada, to seize upon the Subadary of Jhansi, which has for many years been held as the immediate domain of the Peshwa, a measure which will not be effected without resistance, in which Aly Bahadur and the Subadar of Kalpi will

probably join, as they may apprehend to be the next objects of the rapacity of Dowlat Row and his Ministers.

No 31—Zaman Shah's envoy reaches Delhi. Maratha attitude to him.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 4th August 1796.

I have the honor to enclose a paper of intelligence transmitted to me by my agent at Delhi, in consequence of my instructions to him to discover if practicable the purposes of the mission of a Vakeel from Zaman Shah lately arrived in that city.

The report has been obtained from confidential persons at the King's Durbar, and as far as respects their knowledge or belief of the circumstances detailed, is genuine.

I presume that Lakwa Dada has received advices of nearly the same purport as the foregoing, as he sent a very pressing invitation to me to meet the Kabul minister in his camp.

He probably expects to derive some advantage of weight or respectability in his negotiations, from the appearance of connection and concert with our Government which the presence of its Resident will give. But as I cannot perceive any ill consequences to us from the effect desired by Lakhwa, and as it may be of considerable utility to our interests or security to ascertain the real designs of Zaman Shah and the consequent resolutions of the Marathas, I have not hesitated to comply with the invitation. Should you judge my appearance at the Maratha Durbar inexpedient on this occasion, there will be time for your commands to prevent my journey, as the Vakeel purposes to remain some time longer at Delhi.

It is difficult to judge of the probability of Zaman Shah's undertaking an invasion of Lahore, or an expedition into Hindostan.

For the first indeed, motives of both interest and revenge may be assigned, but for the latter he can have no inducement except the glory of rescuing the Mogul Empire from the domination of the Marathas to which the King incessantly urges him. And if, as I am informed, the Rajpoots have joined in the invitation, this is probably his real or ultimate object, and he may undertake it with some prospect of success.

The Maratha Generals appear to be seriously alarmed, and are making very considerable augmentation to their force.

Mr. Bellasis is entertained in the service of Ambajee and employed in forming a regular corps to consist of five battalions of infantry, 1,000 Horse and a proportionate train of artillery.

Although the present embassy from Zaman Shah wears the appearance of more earnestness and solemnity than any former one which I recollect, I do not, from what I understand either of his character, his power or his interests, apprehend that he will effect any permanent establishment in Hindostan. But should he actually restore Shah Alam to any degree of power and authority and maintain him therein, I fear that the Wazir would be exposed to many vexatious claims in consequence of his official relation to the Empire.

No 32—Anticipations of Zaman Shah's invasion—Policy of different Powers in Hindustan.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 26th August 1796.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of intelligence which I have received from Syed Reza Khan, my agent at the King's Durbar, which appears to me of sufficient importance for your information and on the authenticity of which I can rely.

Zaman Shah's Vakeel having had an audience of the King and presented his credentials preparatory to his proceeding to the deputies of Sindia, I shall set out in a few days so as to reach the Maratha Camp before him, which I expect to find in the neighbourhood of Kalpi.

Lakwa Dada has repeated his desire to see me and for the express purpose of conferring on subjects of mutual and momentous concern to the interests and security of the Company and the Vizir and the Maratha Government.

I can have no doubt of your determination to observe a strict neutrality in the invasion of Hindostan by Zaman Shah if he confines his hostilities to the expulsion of the Marathas. But I hope to receive your express authority in time to answer decisively any propositions which the Maratha Generals may make to me on this head.

It appears to be so evidently the interests of the Marathas and Sikhs to unite in opposing the entrance of Zaman Shah into both Lahore and Hindostan, that I have little doubt of Baghel Sing's being authorized by the other chiefs of the Sikh confederacy to propose an alliance as mentioned in the intelligence, or of the Marathas gladly embracing it. And their united force would in my opinion effectually stop the progress of the Abdalis to the eastward, which is an event I think to be wished for by us, as we have nothing to apprehend from the present and probable future state of the Maratha power in Hindostan, while the establishment of the Shah Durrany is at best uncertain and might be very troublesome in its consequences.

Baghel Sing is a Chief of considerable power and influence in the Sikh nation and holds a district by Jagir from Sindia in consideration of his retaining his associate Sirdars in amity with the Marathas.

No. 33—Sindhia's agents really friendly to the English.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 29th August 1796.

I have the honor to forward a *Kharita* to your address from Dowlat Row Sindhia, which has been conveyed to me by Lakwa Dada, and is accompanied by a letter for you from himself, the purport of which I understand to be only complimentary.

Dowlat Row has furnished me with a copy of his letter to you and has at the same time written to me requesting that I will make a visit to his Naibs in Hindostan.

It may be inferred from the earnestness with which both Dowlat Row and his delegates press my repairing to camp that they regard the appearance of cordiality between his Government and that of the Company as of great importance to him in the present aspect of his affairs both in Hindostan and Deccan. And perhaps such advantage as he can derive from our apparent desire to maintain our existing alliance with him will not be impolitically afforded, considering the consequences of the subversion of his power on both sides of India, which appears to me the most probable event of the very arduous contest in which he has engaged. Nor can any partiality towards him or his cause, be inferred from an occasional visit of your Resident to his executive Ministers in Hindostan during his absence, since the relative interests of states connected by alliance and situation will be supposed frequently to require personal discussion.

I must do the justice both to the late and present Durbar to which I am deputed, to declare that in all the transactions which I have had with them either on the part of the Company or the Vizir, I have found them reasonable and conciliating, and sincerely disposed to cultivate and maintain a good understanding and friendly intercourse between the three Governments.

No. 34—Ali Bahadur will not leave Bundelkhand, though ordered to do so from Poona. Zaman Shah diverted to Herat by rebellion.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp, 12th September 1796.

I have been honored with your commands of the 26th ultimo and shall pay the strictest attention to your injunction to observe silence towards the Maratha Generals on the purpose of Aly Bahadur's late deputation to the Nabob Vizir.

It is however not improbable that they suspect his real object, as the mission was public, and as they cannot be ignorant that he is well informed of their design to compel him to evacuate Bundelkhand and return to the Deccan. And to this effect I understand that he has received an order in the name of the Peshwa.

Aly Bahadur will certainly resist any attempt to deprive him of the possessions which he has acquired in Bundelkhand. And as the Subadars of Kalpi and Jhansi are equally apprehensive of the encroachments of Dowlat Row Sindia, there can be little doubt, but these chiefs will make a common cause in opposition to them. Their united efforts will perhaps be unavailing, but the contest may be long and arduous, and its consequences be such as to remove to a very distant period any apprehensions for our own tranquillity, from the Mahrata power in Hindostan.

Reports prevail at Delhi of Zaman Shah having been obliged to repair suddenly to Herat, to quell an insurrection unexpectedly raised in that province by one of his brothers.

I have not been able to learn that any person in Hindostan has regular or authentic intelligence from Kabul, although several pretend to it for interested purposes, and no reliance is therefore to be placed on the almost daily rumours which are spread of the views, and transactions of that court. But from such accounts of Zaman Shah's character and late situation as have been related by persons who are known to have come from

his capital and which seem to be corroborated by time, I am of opinion that he has neither the intention nor the ability to engage in distant and hazardous enterprises.

I expect to reach the Maratha Camp in about eight days.

No. 35—Intrigues among Daulat Rao's ministers at Poona.

FROM—C. W. MALET, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, 21st September 1796.

{ I find that Daulat Row Sindia's present ministry, of which Ballo Tatya is the head, has called on Aba Chitnees to write to his brother Gopal Bhou in the same terms of recall as their master's late letters to him, which Aba declines unless Daulat Row's ministers will accompany his letters with such others to his brother's successor as may relieve him from all impediment from the *soukars* and other creditors to whom he may have contracted debts in the course of his command; this reasonable demand has not hitherto been complied with by the ministers.

I find that the control of the Sindian power in the North is by the latest arrangement devolved on Lakhwa, a dependant of Ballo Tatya. If this measure is persevered in to the exclusion of Jivaji Bakhshi, it should seem that the new minister is more desirous of confirming his own influence by the promotion of his adherents than of securing the power of his master by the instrumentality of Jivaji Bakhshi's weight and ability. But the Sindian affairs seem at present in so unsettled a state as to render all judgment of their future arrangement vague and conjectural }

No. 36—Palmer visits Lakhwa Dada's Camp.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Lakhwa's Camp, 2nd October 1796.

I arrived at the Maratha Camp yesterday. Lakwa Dada, being very impatient to converse with me on the state of his master's interests in Hindostan, appointed to call upon me this morning for that purpose, but has been prevented by his troops, who detain him and his colleague Chitoo [Jagu] Bapoo under rigid *Dharna*. And it was with much difficulty that he prevailed upon them yesterday to permit his going out to meet me.

Although I am thus disappointed in my expectation of being able to transmit to you immediately any genuine and detailed information, of the situation and views, of the Maratha and other Powers in this quarter, I have learned some circumstances which appear to me sufficiently important and authentic to merit your notice.

It is certain that Dowlat Row's Generals are still under the strongest persuasion of Zaman Shah's determined intention to invade Hindóstan this season. And their fears are confirmed and their embarrassments increased, by the conduct of the Rajahs of Jodhpore and Jaypore, who protract or refuse the discharge of their arrears of tribute, and are making preparation to resist the demand by arms. To this resistance they are no doubt encouraged by the prospect of Zaman Shah's invasion, and which it is very probable they have encouraged or invited.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of intelligence which I received this day from Delhi. But I cannot pretend to say what credit may be due to the report of the cossids who brought it from Kabul.

Zaman Shah's Vakeel is not pleased with the reception which he has met with from Sindia's representatives. I expect to have an interview with him after my first conference with Lakwa Dada, who has deferred, until that takes place, his answer to the Shah's letter.

No. 37—Palmer's discussions with Lakhwa Dada and his colleagues—their fear of Zaman Shah and of Rajput risings. Mutual jealousy among the three Maratha agents of Sindhia in the North.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Lakhwa's Camp, 8th October 1796.

Since I had the honour to address you last on the 2nd instant, I have had two meetings with the *naibs* of Dowlat Row Sindia, at which they fully disclosed the state of the Government committed to their charge.

The subject which engages their immediate and anxious attention, is the embassy from Zaman Shah. They believe the mission to be genuine, and the declared purposes of it to be seriously intended.

The Shah in his letter to the deputies professes great friendship for Dowlat Row and declares that he has no intention to disturb his administration of the Mogul Empire, his views of conquest being confined to the possessions of the Sikhs. But the propositions contained in his letter are of a very different tendency to those professions.

He requires that the Marathas shall acquiesce in his subjecting the country of Lahore and establishing his dominion over it.

That they shall consent to his marrying a daughter of Mirza Akbar Shah, and acknowledge that prince as successor to Shah Alam.

And that as his finances are much deranged, they shall present him with a suitable *peshkash*.

The Maratha Sardars are persuaded that to permit Zaman Shah to establish his dominion in Lahore, and to facilitate his intercourse, and countenance his interference with the Government of Shah Alam by consenting to the proposed family alliance, would infallibly and speedily produce their total expulsion from Hindostan.

But they are perplexed to answer the Shah's proposals, by the advances which the late Mahadjee Sindia made to him for invading Lahore in concert and dividing the conquest.

An answer has hitherto been evaded on pretext of reference to Poona. But the Maratha generals declare to me that they are determined to oppose the Shah's progress by every exertion of their power and influence.

Several of the Sikh chiefs have proposed to unite with the Marathas in opposing the entrance of the Abdalis into the Punjab, and this proposal will be accepted. But as two or three of the principal leaders of that nation are said to favour the designs of Zaman Shah, the success of the projected co-operation is doubtful.

But the Marathas are exposed to a more direct and imminent danger, from the disposition which the Rajahs of Jaypore and Jodhpore have manifested to avail themselves of the alarm and confusion caused by the reports of Zaman Shah's approach, to unite for the recovery of their independence and to promote the total subversion of the Maratha power in Hindostan.

Lakwa Dada is preparing to march with his whole force to defeat this combination, before it becomes too formidable by the actual invasion of the Abdalis, or by the accession of the less considerable Rajpoot chiefs.

The enmity of Aly Bahadur and the jealousy and distrust of the Subadars of Kalpi and Jhansi, are additional sources of apprehension to Sindia's Government, and require and must occupy a considerable portion of its force to guard against the effects of them.

Lakwa Dada and his colleague confessed that their strength and resources were not adequate to the successful resistance of these complicated dangers, and that they have little prospect of being able

ultimately to maintain their power and possessions in Hindostan, if Zaman Shah should actually attack them.

They earnestly pressed me to solicit your attention to this situation, to consider the regard which their Government had scrupulously paid to the tranquillity of the Vizir's Dominions ever since they had been his neighbours, and to reflect on the consequences of admitting a people of the character of the Abdalis establishing themselves so near our territories, on the ruin of a tried friend and faithful ally.

Should Zaman Shah not carry his design of invading Lahore into execution, the Maratha Government has little to apprehend from the disposition or power of the chiefs of Hindostan, which will only be encouraged to action by the advantages which the vicinity of the Shah's army would afford them. But in the event of his actual progress towards Hindostan, it is in your aid alone that the safety of Dowlat Row's possessions and the maintenance of his authority between the Jamma and the Narbada will depend.

I observed with respect to their application for military aid from the Company, that they had sufficient experience of your favourable disposition towards their Government from the whole tenor of your conduct in every transaction which related to it, and of course [you] cannot be supposed to desire its subversion in favour of a power with whom you have no political connection, nor any communication except an occasional interchange of civilities. But whatever concern [sic] you were precluded from engaging in their protection, by considerations of equal justice and policy as affecting both foreign Governments and your own. At the same time you were prepared to repel any hostile attempts which Zaman Shah might make directly against the territories of the Vizier or the Company.

The Sardars were well satisfied with the reasons which I assigned for your observing a strict neutrality, and probably they obtained thereby the real aim of their request for assistance, which might be rather to know your sentiments of Zaman Shah's designs than an expectation that you would join in opposing them.

I have not yet seen the Kabul Vakeel, but expect to meet him in two or three days. I hope from the interview to be better able to judge of the veracity of his mission, of which from the meanness of his retinue and his applying to the Marathas for subsistence, I am still somewhat incredulous. Nor is my faith much stronger in the ability of his master to achieve so distant and hazardous an enterprize as the conquest of Lahore.

Lakwa Dada expresses much uneasiness at the prospect of Dowlat Row's affairs in the Deccan. He suspects the professions of the Nizam and Azim-ul-Omra, and Tipoo is supposed to be engaged on the side of

Nana Furnavees. Lakwa suggested the ill consequences to which we might be exposed if Tippo by his connection with Nana should obtain an influence with the Maratha Empire, and intimated that the Peshwa and Dowlat Row would gladly enter into the strictest alliance with us for the purpose of defeating that ascendancy.

(There is some secret jealousy and distrust subsisting between the three principal Sardars of Sindia's army here. Lakwa Dada is devoted to Ballooba Tatia; his colleague Chittoo [Jagu] Bapoo, is the uncle of Narain Bhow Bakshy, the great rival and enemy of Tatia. Ambajee is rather a subsidiary chief than a servant. He maintains in his own immediate pay a force nearly equal to that of Sindia in Hindostan, he possesses immense personal wealth and farms above a crore of Sindia's revenue, having Gwalior and other strong places in his custody. Knowing his importance at this critical time, he dictates the terms of his service, and secures possession of every acquisition which is made by his assistance. Thus powerful, he is suspected of entertaining views of independancy at the expense of Dowlat Row, and he certainly submits with impatience to the authority of Lakwa Dada whom he regards in every respect as much his inferior. No want of cordiality or concert for the public service however has yet appeared among these chiefs, and they probably continue united for the present from a sense of common danger.)

No. 38—Lakhwa marches against the Maratha Governor of Kalpi.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Lakhwa's Camp, 13th October 1796.

Lakwa Dada marched this morning with his whole force towards Kalpi in order to enforce payment of a *tankha* upon the Subahdar of that district granted in the name of the Peshwa, and which has been four months in negotiation.

It is not probable that any resistance by force or any delay in the payment of this demand will now be made. The next movement of the Maratha army will be towards Jaypore.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of intelligence transmitted to me this day from Delhi, to which place it was brought from Kabul by *kasids* employed by the merchants trading between the two cities.

Sindhia's Generals have not lately received any direct advices of Zaman Shah's motives or designs.

No. 39—Rohila invasion of Maratha possessions in the Doab—Sindhia's generals fear a general conspiracy against them formed by the Hindustani Muslim and Rajput Powers, aided by Zaman Shah's threat. British policy to support Marathas justified.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Lakhwa's Camp, 23rd October 1796.

Since my last address, great alarm has been excited in this camp by an unexpected irruption of a large body of Rohilas from Rampore into the Doab where they have joined the force of two zemindars of the Gujar tribe and have begun to ravage the country and dislodge the thanahs of Dowlat Row Sindia in Garh Mukteshwar.

On the first intelligence of this incursion, Lakwa Dāda expressed to me his apprehensions of its having been encouraged or connived at by the Vizir's Government. As I had no information whatever on the subject of the Rohila emigration, I could only give to Lakwa such general assurances of the Vizir's sincere disposition to maintain the alliance and harmony which has so long subsisted between him and the Maratha Government, as would tend to remove his suspicions of the present expedition of the Rohilas being undertaken with the Vizir's knowledge, and to release his fears of further invasion by His Excellency's injunctions to prevent it.

I have had the satisfaction to receive from Mr. Lumsden a confirmation of these assurances, who has forwarded to me a copy of the orders issued by the Vizir to Almas Aly Khan on the first advices of these peoples' intentions, to disarm and disperse them. And Lakwa is convinced that His Excellency would not have permitted this hostile migration if he had received timely information of it.

The most serious consequences are apprehended by the Maratha Government from this event, which is regarded as the first movement of a general combination of the ancient principalities of Hindostan, excited by Nana Furnavees, and cemented by the secret sanction of Shah Alam, the restoration of whose authority will be the declared purpose of the confederacy.

A considerable force of Native infantry and artillery stationed in the districts nearest to that attacked, has been ordered to assemble and repel the insurgents. But before it can be collected, the latter will probably have acquired additional strength both in numbers and posts. They are said already to amount to 20,000, and have eleven pieces of cannon. I shall not be surprized if they first attempt to get possession of the King's person.

I do not know whether this commotion is connected with the design of Zaman Shah to invade Hindostan, but it no doubt derives countenance and support from the general belief of the Shah's intention.

Lakwa Dada is preparing to march to the westward with his whole force, if that which has been ordered against the Atchilas should prove insufficient to check their progress.

I think that the Maratha power cannot long resist the combination against it, if that is so extensive as reported. And I am very apprehensive that any other Government which is likely to be established in Hindostan on the subversion of that of the Marathas, would not be so favourable to the tranquillity of the Vizir's Dominions.

It may deserve serious consideration whether the expulsion of the Marathas from this side of India, is not a part of a very comprehensive project said to be formed for the total extirpation of the British nation, by the principal Muhammedan Powers on the other side, in concert with the French.

The removal of a Government, in alliance with us, and from whose moderation we have derived security and tranquillity, and the establishment of another in our neighbourhood, with which we have no connection, and whose views are probably hostile to us, would occupy our force in this quarter, and materially diminish our ability to afford aid when the greatest efforts are intended against us.

Should a war against Tipoo and the French appear inevitable, I submit it, with great deference to your mature consideration, whether it would not be prudent and highly advantageous to obviate the difficulties and dangers to which we might be exposed in such a situation on this side of India, by the depression of the Maratha Power, by giving it immediate and effectual military aid, whenever it may be formidably attacked.

I have not given the smallest hint to the Maratha generals of my suggesting such a measure to you, or my own sentiments on the subject, but have let them remain under the impressions of my former declarations of your friendly disposition to the Government of Sindia, but with a determination to maintain a strict neutrality in all disputes which do not immediately affect the interests or reputation of the Company.

I have the honor to enclose some extracts of a letter from my agent at Delhi. The suspicions expressed by the Maratha Ministers at the Shah's Durbar, of the intrigues of Mirza Akbar and Mirza Mogul, are meant to comprehend the King himself. And it is both probable and justifiable that His Majesty should endeavour to find protection where he may expect more liberal treatment than he experiences from the Marathas.

Lakwa Dada informs me that he has received intelligence in 42 days from Kabul. Zaman Shah was still in that city, and undetermined whether to march towards Lahore or Herat, the latter province being threatened with invasion by Muhomed Khan, the most powerful of the Persian generals.

I have not yet had a meeting with the Shah's ambassador, although he has made two appointments for that purpose, one to have been at my own tents, and the other at the Maratha durbar. I do not know how to account for his failure. What objection he can have himself, I cannot conceive, and Lakhwa Dada seems very desirous that we should meet.

No. 40—Bapu Sindhia crushes Rohila raiders near Sardhana.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Lakhwa's Camp, 24th October 1796.

The principal Sardars of Daulat Row Sindia have this morning received intelligence from Bappoojee Sindia, amil of Saharanpour, of his having attacked the Rohila force near Sardhana on the 18th instant, and totally defeated and dispersed it, after a very long action, in which Omar Khan and his son were killed. A standard erected by the Rohilas and denominated Nana Furnaweess, fell into the hands of the Marathas.

Bapoojee Sindia was in pursuit of the fugitives, and as they are surrounded by Sindia's troops, it is probable but few will escape. And after this disaster it is not likely that further attempts will be made by the Rohillas to raise commotion in the Doab.

No. 41—Palmer's further discussions with Lakhwa. Tipu's secret envoy to Zaman Shah. Rohila raiders with Gujar help, rallying. Lakhwa's plans against Kalpi, etc.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Lakhwa's Camp, 3rd November 1796.

[Lakwa Dada informed me yesterday that the check given to the Rohila and Gujar insurgents having afforded him leisure to prosecute his intentions in this quarter, he should immediately proceed to enforce payment of the Peshwa's *tankha* upon the Subahdar of Kalpi, which had been

artfully evaded for five months. That when this object was effected, he should march to take possession of the district of Jhansi, which is assigned in *jagir* for the maintenance of Baji Row. He expects to be about two months employed in these operations, after which he purposes to move with his whole force to the westward, in order to re-establish the Maratha ascendancy in Jaypore and Jodhpore and to watch the motions of Zaman Shah and the Sikhs.)

Lakwa then expressed great satisfaction at my visit to his camp, and the discussions which had passed between us, on the present state and prospects of Dawlat Row Sindia's interests in Hindostan, as they had given him entire confidence in your wish to cultivate and improve the subsisting between the Company and Sindia, by every means conformations sistent with the justice due to other Powers, and a regard to the tranquillity of your own Government. And as my presence with him for a month, had clearly manifested the continuance of the public and amicable connexion, so long and reciprocally maintained to the advantage of both States, he would not wish to detain me any longer, or require my attendance further in hostile expeditions, which could in no way affect us however they might terminate. I have therefore taken leave, and shall return immediately to Fathgarh, from whence I can more readily proceed towards Delhi, if the approach of Zaman Shah should make it necessary, for carrying your commands to me to meet him into execution.

The latest intelligence from Kabul is dated the 7th Ruby-ul-Awal [=10th September 1796]; the Shah was still in that city, in which forces were said to be assembling from all parts of his dominions, but it was yet doubtful whether the destination would be towards Persia or Hindostan. The fears of the Marathas abate in proportion to the delay in the Shah's march. And indeed, he ought to be already in Hindostan, to make any considerable progress in the conquest of it during the cold season. I believe a juster conclusion against this expedition may be drawn from the known difficulties and dangers attending it, than in favour of its taking place, from any direct intelligence of which we do not know the authenticity however plausible.

The Rohila insurrection does not appear to have been made in concert with any chieftains of Hindostan except the Gujar zamindars, Nayn Sukh and Ram Dayal; nor to have been formed upon any regular and deliberated plan; in these people it seems to have been a confederacy merely for the purpose of plunder, although more extensive consequences were perhaps expected by those who excited them, from their throwing the country into embarrassment and confusion.

The commotion however, of whatever nature it may be, is not entirely quelled. The Rohilas who fled from the late action are reassembled to the

number of 3 or 4,000 at the principal fort belonging to Nayn Sukh, and as is reported, have been joined by a body of Sikhs from the adjacent country. They are not however able to keep the field against the force now collected under Bappoojee, Sindia, consisting of a 11 or 12 Battalions of sepoy's, a large train of artillery, and 4 or 5,000 horse.

If any of the Rajpoot chiefs should now stand forth in support of the insurgents, it may be inferred that the plan is deeper laid than the commencement of it has given reason to suppose. But as yet there is no appearance of connection, and the Gujars and Rohilas are left to their fate. The junction of the neighbouring Sikhs may be regarded as induced solely by the hopes of booty.

I saw the Vakeel from Kabul but once, while I was in the Maratha camp, and then at the tent of Ambajee, where I was upon a ceremonious visit and had no opportunity of particular conversation with him. He appears by his general discourse to be a man of sense and education, spoke without reserve of his master's intention to invade Lahore, and when I expressed a desire in a complimentary manner to see so great a prince as Zaman Shah, he observed that I should soon have the opportunity. He made no enquiries respecting the Company or the Vizir, nor expressed any great desire to meet again, although I had given him a very cordial invitation and previous assurance of a suitable reception. Whether this reserved and cautious behaviour was calculated to avoid giving cause of suspicion to the Mahrattas or was the result of the nature of his mission and instructions, I am not able to determine.

Since I marched, my agents have communicated to me a piece of intelligence which they received from a Kabul *elchi*, but which they were enjoined not to disclose to me until I should leave the Mahratta camp. The person relates, that two Syeds in the disguise of faqirs dispatched by Tipoo to Zaman Shah with letters concealed in a bamboo, arrived at the Maratha camp some time ago, and having delivered a letter to the *elchi*, on which the informer says the *mutasuddy* showed him Tipoo's seal, they proceeded to Kabul.

This relation appears to me so improbable in some of its circumstances, as to give it little claim to notice or attention. But as the motive of the person who gave it and of the *mutasuddy* from whom he received it, can be no other than the hope of reward, and as this must depend upon proof of the facts, I have upon this ground some hopes, that in a few days I shall be able to establish the truth or falsehood of them.

If an intercourse between Tipoo and Zaman Shah has actually taken place, there can be little doubt that our Government is the object of it, and it is of great importance to ascertain whether or not it really exists. I have therefore given every encouragement which can be expected to get the proofs into my hands.

(The Subahdar of Kalpi having retired on the approach of Sindhia's army and thereby exposed his province to devastation, rather than comply with the *tankha* granted upon him for only five lacks of rupees, it is not improbable that he has hopes of assistance from Aly Bahadur and the Subhadar of Jhansi, which may enable him to resist and retaliate on the possessions of Dawlat Row. In my opinion however, their united force is not able to contend with that under Lakwa Dada.)

No. 42—Daulat Rao's action against Lakwa Dada.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp, 8th November 1796.

I lose not a moment in transmitting to you copies of the important papers of intelligence which I have this instant received from Poona, and of which that I might receive the earliest accounts, Dawlat Row Sindia detained all the other *daks* until after the dispatch of mine.

I conjecture that the change in Dawlat Row's ministry is a prelude to the restoration of Baji Row, and that the whole has been concerted with Nana Furnaweess.

It appears to me that it will be difficult to execute the orders of Dawlat Row for securing the person of Lakwa Dada, as he is at present with a separate division of the troops at a distance from both Chittoo Bapoo and Ambajee, and has with him the greatest part of the regular brigade, which is exceedingly attached to him, as is the army in general. Unless measures have been taken to seize him by surprize, very serious consequences may follow the attempt.

I lament the fall of Lakwa Dada on account of his personal character, which for mildness and moderation exceeds that of any Maratha I know.

No. 43—Lakwa Dada flees with his family to Oudh Wazir's dominions. Palmer recommends Lakwa to the Governor-General.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 10th November 1796.

Late last night I received the intelligence from Lakwa Dada's camp, of which the enclosed is a copy. I have not yet heard that he has passed the

Jamna. But I have sent advice of his intention to Mr. Lumsden, for the Vizir's information, that his Excellency may not be alarmed by the appearance of the Mahratta General with a considerable body of troops in his dominions without knowing the cause.

I have taken the liberty to solicit the Vizir's protection to Lakwa Dada and his family so long as it can be afforded without infraction of the Treaty subsisting between His Excellency and the Maratha State, which will be at least until his person is formally claimed as within the description of fugitives stipulated to be surrendered mutually.

The Vizir has received so many proofs of Lakwa's respect and accommodating disposition in the transactions which have occurred between the two Governments, that I have no doubt he will show him all the attention and give him all the support which his situation requires and admits.

And on this occasion, the esteem which I entertain for the good qualities of this unfortunate chief and of which I have had long and intimate experience, induces me to recommend him, Sir, to your countenance and support so far as signifying to the Vizir your approbation of His Excellency's affording him an asylum, until the Maratha Government shall represent him as not entitled to it consistently with existing stipulation.

He will probably solicit your permission to make a pilgrimage to Benares and Gaya, to which I apprehend you will see no objection, unless it should be formally stated to you that he was a delinquent to the Government of Dawlat Row Sindia, and which I believe is not even pretended. His removal, as I understand, being merely in consequence of his dependence on and attachment to Ballooba Tatia.

I shall not fail to give you the earliest information which I may obtain of Lakwa Dada's progress, and the state of the Maratha army since his retiring.

No. 44—Intelligence from Lakhwa Dada's camp dated 6th Jamadi awwal [7th November.]

Enclosed in Palmer's despatch dated 10th Nov. 1796.

In consequence of the arrival of letters of importance the night before from Puna, Lakwaji consulted with his confidants and it was resolved

among them that he should the following morning send away the female part of his family and others of his adherents, to the further side of the Ganges under pretence of performing their ablutions, and he himself march and encamp at Gopalgarh. He gave orders for his nephew Balwant Rao, Bhikhaji and Madho Rao to accompany his women. Intelligence being brought him from Bapeoji Sindhia that Nynsukh was in force with 6,000 men, he sent orders to him to repel them.

He then revised the Puna letters and after a private conference with his companions addressed a letter to D. R. S., and others to the subahdar of Agra, the qiladar of Mathura and the amil of Mathura, communicating the events of Puna and desiring them to be vigilant at their respective stations. Subsequently Lakwaji received a letter from Jagu Bapu, desiring him not to be under any alarm on account of the occurrences at Puna, and informing him that he should the following day march and join him. Lakwaji then went into his Zenana, looked over some of his effects and selected some to be sent with his women.

Early this morning he sent off the baggage with orders to encamp near Gopalgarh. He ordered Munshi Nathu Ram after a long private conference to attend the women, and directed him to write all particulars to Colonel Palmer. He then despatched orders to Imam Bakhsh informing him of the occurrences of Puna and desiring him to send [Sutherland] Sahib with guns to chastise Nynsookh. He likewise wrote an answer to Jagu Bapu's letter received last night and afterwards held a private conference with Madhu Rao etc. At 9 o'clock a.m. he sent off his women together with those of Madhu Rao, with his nephew Balwant Rao etc. and 2 or 3 thousand horse and foot, under pretence of ablution at the Ganges, and with orders to cross the Jamuna in the course of the day.

He then mounted his horse and at the end of two kos reached his tents near Gopalgarh. There he was joined by Lakwaji Anriwala, who informed him that he had erected his batteries against Gopalgarh. Afterwards the wakil of the subahdar of Jhansi came and delivered a letter from his principal, purporting that in consequence of a report that Jhansi and the adjacent places were allotted by the Peshwa to Baji Rao, the ryots were taking to flight. On perusing it, Lakwaji told the wakil that it was true, but that he was far from wishing that the subahdar of Jhansi should be dispossessed. He then inquired how far off Benares was. The attendants told him about 150 kos.

Balwant Rao and Rajah Ambaji came from Jagu Bapu's camp and informed him that Jagu Bapu would march today, and on the morrow join him, Lakwaji. Lakwaji held a long private conference with Ambaji respecting the occurrences at Puna.

In the evening intelligence was brought to him that the two battalions under Sutherland Sahib's command, which had marched to [? Parichhitgarh] had, agreeable to summons, returned and were encamped at the distance of 2 Kos.

At one *pas* (=three hours) and a half of the night, Lakwaji mounted his horse and with 100 horse and his effects set off for the Jamuna. Balwant Rao, Madho Rao and several others of his adherents also went off with their effects for fear of Jagu Bapu's crossing and seizing them. The camp is left at God's mercy.

No. 45—Lakhwa Dada flees away from Sindhia's northern army.

FROM—J. LUMSDEN, RESIDENT AT LUCKNOW,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Cawnpur, 12th November 1796.

Advices just arrived from the camp of Lakwa Dada, dated the 6th Jamadi-ul-awwal (7 November 1796) mention that on receipt of the intelligence from Puna [viz., that D. R. S. had imprisoned Taty Pagnis, and that Parashuram Bhau had fled from Puna with the young Peshwa Chimnaji Apa on 25 or 26 Rabi I=28 or 29 September]—Lakwa fled from his camp at Gopalgarh towards the Jamuna, and it was supposed meant to proceed to Benares.

No. 46—Lakhwa in flight, crosses the Jamuna into Oudh territory. Palmer's friendliness to him.

FROM—W. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 12th November 1796.

I have this morning received intelligence of Lakwa Dada's having passed the Jamna attended by about 2000 horses and of his intention to proceed to Bethur, where I believe the Vizir is now encamped. I have advised Mr. Lumsden of this information.

Lakwa Dada has not written to me since his retreat, neither have I heard from his successor Chitto Bapoo. But the present state of the Maratha

army will be communicated to you by Mr. Edmonstone, to whom I have transmitted the latest intelligence from thence for your information.

No accounts from Poona have come to me direct, since those which I had the honor to forward to you under date the 8th instant. But the reports from thence received in the Maratha camp appear conformable to the result which might be expected from the change in Dowlat Row Sindia's ministry, and are highly interesting, as indicative of a permanent settlement of the Mahratta Empire, and of the removal of all pretext or necessity for the interference of foreign Powers.

It is perhaps fortunate for the maintenance of that consistency and impartiality by which your intercourse with the native Powers through your Residents has been invariably regulated, that I had left the Maratha camp before the change of command in it took place, especially as the new arrangement is not likely to be final, and I might on the spot, have found it difficult to have preserved the appearance of an exact neutrality, amidst contending interests and fluctuating authority, or to have avoided giving offence to one party or the other.

I am inclined to suspect that it was from some previous knowledge of his removal, that Lakwa Dada intimated to me that he did not wish to detain me in his camp. He might suppose my presence useful towards obtaining an asylum in the Vizir's dominions. Or he might wish to withdraw me from any personal communication with his successor by which he might suppose the latter would derive any benefit or respectability.

No. 47—Lakwa sends his munshi to Palmer to explain why he fled away from Sindhia. Palmer recommends an asylum for him in Oudh or the Company's dominions.

FROM—W. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 15th November 1796.

Since I had the honor to address you last under date the 12th instant, I have received a letter from Lakwa Dada informing me of his having passed the Jamna with intention to proceed to Bethoor as soon as he shall have obtained the Vizir's permission. He has also sent his *munshi* to me, to state his motives for withdrawing from his station, and the circumstances upon which he relies for protection from the Company and the Vizir.

The *munshi* produced an original letter from Dawlat Row Sindia to Lakwa on the occasion of the late change in his ministry, in which he declares his entire satisfaction with the conduct of that general, desires him to continue in his command, and to be under no apprehension of any diminution of the confidence and authority reposed in him, from the removal of his principal and patron Balooa Tantia.

But Lakwa observes, that whatever personal satisfaction he might derive from the approbation and assurances of his master, he could not with any regard to honor and gratitude act with the enemies of the late Minister, to whom he had been devoted all his life and to whom he was indebted for his rise and fortune. And supposing that the men now in power, whom he knew to be implacable enemies to Ballooba and all his adherents, would have acquiesced in his retaining his command, it would have been impossible to inspire such a belief of their confidence in him as would have been necessary to the effectual exercise of his authority, either for the service of the Sirkar or his own reputation.

That several strong places being in possession of officers appointed by and attached to him, and that having the affection of the troops, he might have resisted successfully any attempts to remove or disgrace him, and at last have retreated with the acquisition of great wealth. But no personal considerations could induce him to violate his duty to his prince, to disturb his Government, or injure his interests, and he had preferred a silent retreat with the sacrifice of his fortune, a choice which he trusts will recommend him to your and the Vizir's good opinion, and ensure to him a quiet asylum as long as he may stand in need of it, and it shall appear that he is not less deserving of it than under his present circumstances.

Lakwa has written to the Vizir, and I have explained his situation to Mr. Lumsden.

My enquiries concerning the intercourse between Tipoo and Zaman Shah, have produced no further information, than that such intercourse actually subsists, that the Vakeel now in the Maratha camp brought a letter from Zaman Shah for Tipoo, and that the person who gave information of the Syeds passing from Tipoo to Kabul, after delivering a letter to the Vakeel, can produce the original letter if necessary. This I am endeavouring to obtain by encouragement to the informer, although I should not place much reliance on its authenticity if produced, unless attended with corroborating circumstances.

The reports of Zaman Shah's intentions to invade Hindostan or Lahore this season seem to have entirely subsided.

No. 48—Report of Zaman Shah's coming. Commotion of Rohilas and Gujars in Saharanpur continues.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 15th November 1796.

I have received advice from my agent at Shah Alam's Darbar, that intelligence from various quarters is arrived at Delhi of Zaman Shah's having actually marched from Kabul towards Peshawar and dispatched previous directions to lay a bridge of boats over the Attok. But whether it is his intention to advance into Hindostan or not, the reports do not mention.

Should you deem it expedient in case of the approach of Zaman Shah, that I should, in pursuance of your instruction of the 3rd ultimo, proceed to meet him, I beg leave to suggest that it may be requisite to furnish me with credentials for that purpose without delay, as the Shah's progress will be very rapid.

The commotions raised in the Maratha territories by the Gujars and Rohilas are still kept up, and receive encouragement and support from the unsettled state of the Government in consequence of the recent changes at Poona and in Hindostan, and from the incursion of a considerable body of Sikhs in the vicinity of Panipat.

I am apprehensive that the countries to the westward on both sides of the Jamna, will soon be in a state of confusion and hostility.

No. 49—Rumours of Abdali invasion discredited.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 19th November 1796.

I cannot dispense with giving you every information which I receive on a subject involving such important consequences as the invasion of Hindostan by the Abdalis, however diffident I may be of its authenticity and averse to giving you unnecessary trouble.

The enclosed copy of a letter from Zaman Shah to his Vakeel at the Maratha Durbar, is asserted to have been obtained from the Moonshy of the latter by a person in his confidence, who has some connection with my

agents and dependence upon me. But of his veracity or that of the *munshi*, I have not the means to judge.

I have not sought for this intelligence, knowing that an appearance of anxiety to obtain it would encourage interested and impositious fabrication.

The reports subjoined from the Maratha camp, concur with other accounts which daily arrive at Delhi from Lahore. But the Shah's march to Peshawar is no more than his annual custom at this season, to avoid the severity of the winter in Kabul.

Notwithstanding these concurrent rumours and that the Abdalis have formerly invaded Hindostan and it cannot be pronounced that they may not invade it again, I see so many obstacles to the undertaking at this time, that I am still incredulous of their attempting it.

No. 50—Daulat Rao recalls Lakhwa Dada. News of Zaman Shah's wakil and of the Gujar rebel Nain Sukh.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

11th December 1796.

It gives me great satisfaction to learn by your commands of the 22nd ultimo that my recommendation of Lakwa Dada and his family to the protection of the Nabob Vizir is honored with your approbation.

I gave Lakwa early warning of the condition to which he is subjected, of his person being surrendered on the claim of his sovereign, and indeed he himself was fully apprized of the stipulation between the three Governments to that effect.

It appears however that he has little to apprehend on that head, as Dawlat Row, since being informed of his withdrawing, has with great kindness and encouragement pressed him to resume his command; and Chittoo Bapoo has directed that the effects which he left in camp shall be forwarded to him, and was preparing a deputation of Sirdars to wait upon him and reconduct him to the army.

I hope he will comply with this invitation, but I am apprehensive that he will suspect it to be an artifice, for more effectually subjecting his person and property to the power of his enemies.

The Vakeel of Zaman Shah has lately made some indirect applications to me to engage in correspondence with him, and to obtain an invitation

to him from the Vizir, for whom he says he has a letter from the Shah. To the first intimation I have answered, that I shall be glad to be favored with any communications which he may wish to make to me, but have myself no subject on which to treat sufficiently material for commencing an epistolary intercourse.

I communicated in person to the Vizir and to Mr. Lumsden, the Vakeel's desire to receive from His Excellency an invitation to his presence. This the Vizir declined to give, but said that he had no objection to the Vakeel's visit if he had any mission from his master.

I have not been able to obtain any corroborative information of the passing of emissaries in disguise from Tipoo to Zaman Shah. But the person who first conveyed to me the intelligence of having seen them in the Maratha camp, persists in the truth of the assertion, and he is represented to me as a person worthy of credit.

I learn from Delhi, that a treaty which had been concluded between the Maratha commander and Nayn Sukh the Goojar insurgent who was joined by the Rohilas, has been broken and Parichitgarh reinvested.

The Maratha force in the district of Panipat and Karnal, has not yet been able to repel the incursions of the Sikhs.

[N.B.—This letter, found incomplete at the end, is preserved among the Poona Residency papers. But the copy sent to the Governor General cannot be found among the Imperial Records at Delhi.]

No. 51—News about Zaman Shah's movements.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 13th December 1796.

I am honored with your commands of the 1st and 2nd instant.

Should the approach of Zaman Shah towards the confines of Delhi require my repairing to his presence in obedience to your instructions, I shall be careful previously to ascertain that my reception will be friendly, suitable to the dignity of your Government, and to the consideration which you have evinced for him by the deputation.

Several days having elapsed since the reports of the Shah's advance to Peshawar, without further mention of any movement, I conclude that his design of invading Hindostan, if he had really entertained it, was

abandoned and the season too far advanced to give countenance to further reports of those persons who may have an interest in alarming the country.

But yesterday I received intelligence from the Maratha camp, said to have been transmitted thither from Patiala, that the Shah marched from Peshawar towards the Attok on the 25th of the second Rubby [28th October]; I did not think this information deserving of much attention. But today I have received from my agent at the King's Durbar, the intelligence of which I have the honor to enclose a copy and which I know to be so far entitled to credit as having been actually brought to His Majesty.

I am however still of opinion that, admitting the Shah to have reached the banks of the Attok, and that his troops are passing that river into Multan, the obstacles to an invasion of Hindostan with any reasonable hope of success this season, are insurmountable. But whatever may be my persuasion of Zaman Shah's design, or of his ability to execute it, I shall not relax in my endeavors to obtain for your information, the most exact intelligence of his force and motions.

I am not prepared to give, without further enquiry, an opinion by which your determination might be influenced, on the measure which you have in contemplation to dispatch a native agent to Kabul. But it appears to me rather doubtful whether your purposes in such a mission could be fully effected, unless by a person invested with a public character. I hope however to be able in the course of a few days to have the honor of giving you my sentiments on this subject with more precision and evidence.

If the mission of a secret agent should be found eligible, I am acquainted with three or four natives in this quarter whom I could venture to name to you, as qualified by understanding and integrity to execute it.

No. 52—Proposal to send a native agent in a private capacity from the British to Kabul for securing news.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 28th December 1796.

I have endeavored to obtain such information on the subject of your intention to dispatch a native agent in a private character to Kabul for the purpose of intelligence, as may enable you to judge of the probable success of such a mission.

The result of enquiries which I have made of persons who have occasionally resorted to and sometime resided at Kabul, is that little substantial information can be acquired by emissaries who have no ostensible cause of residence in the country, as such persons would be liable to suspicion and treated with caution and distrust, and that such an intimate knowledge of the situation, views, and character of Zaman Shah; as would ascertain the present or remote interest or concern which the Company or the Vizir may have in his power and designs, is only to be obtained by the constant residence of a public minister.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of intelligence this day from my news-writer at Delhi. It is unsupported by any other account of the Shah's motions, and I think entitled to little or no credit, unless it should be immediately confirmed.

No. 53—Palmer ordered to succeed Malet as Resident at Poona. His regard for Malet. Further news about Zaman Shah.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET, RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fathgarh, 26th December 1796.

I am this morning favoured with yours of the 11th instant. I participate in the disappointment which you feel on Mr. Uhthoffs' exclusion from the succession to your office, to which I am ready to admit he had the best pretensions. But had the appointment not been bestowed upon me, you would have had the mortification to have seen a gentleman new to the line placed in it, and it was on this circumstance, that I advanced my pretensions, as thinking them preferable to those of a stranger to the diplomatic service. This Sir John Shore was pleased to allow; yet there has been much difficulty in effecting my movements from his embarrassment of a prior promise. I pursued the object of succeeding to your station, rather on a principle of reputation than of emolument, and it was the opinion of all my friends, as well as my own, that it would have the appearance of disapprobation of my conduct, if Government should select a Resident new in the line for the most distinguished deputation after I had been so many years employed in another intimately connected with it.

My last letter conveyed to you assurances of my disposition to serve and oblige your friends and dependants. Whether I shall have the means of doing it, I can not yet ascertain. On the first intimation that it was determined I shall succeed you, I requested to be indulged with the continuance of my present escort and suite, to which I have not yet received any answer.

My native agents have been with me since I have been in office and have conducted themselves with diligence and fidelity. I am however only anxious to provide for them in the service of my succession, and if that can be done, shall thankfully accept the services of your confidential dependants.

I have not much expectation that my guard and staff will be permitted to attend me to Poona; in that case your wish and recommendation of the gentlemen attached to your residency will be decisive of my choice.

We continue to receive daily various and contradictory reports of the motions of Zaman Shah and of his intention to visit Hindoostan this season; the Vizir has stationed dawks and a newswriter to [Amritsar?] within a few stages of Lahore; and the latter, I suppose, to enhance his own merits for diligence and useful information, appears to fabricate alarming intelligence of the Shah having passed the Attock, defeated the Sikhs, and being on his march to Lahore. Not a word of all this is mentioned in the daily subsequent news, and I give not the smallest credit to it. The best authenticated report of the Shah is that he is himself at Peshawar, and that a detachment of his troops have passed the Attock at Multan, in order to support the Lattees who are at war with the Sindees on the borders of that province. My own opinion is that the Shah will never invade Hindoostan, and it is formed on my knowledge of the difficulties he will have to surmount both in advancing and returning, and of the little inducement which Hindoostan holds out to such an undertaking.

I promise myself the pleasure of hearing from you after your receipt of this, when you should finally determine on retiring, which I can assure you I am far from desiring.

No. 54—If Zaman Shah invades Delhi, Palmer will visit him as British envoy.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 1st January 1797.

The intelligence which I have lately received respecting the movements and designs of Zaman Shah, not being either so regular or circumstantial as that transmitted to you by Mr. Lumsden and obtained through the Vizir's news-writer at Amritsar, and nearly agreeing with the latter in substance, I have not thought it proper to encumber the public records with superfluous information. But the concurrent reports from Delhi, which I have the honor to enclose, tending to confirm the former accounts,

of the Shah's gradual approach towards the Punjab, may deserve your attention.

Admitting that Zaman Shah has actually passed into the Punjab, there is little cause to apprehend his advancing into Hindostan this season, unless his progress should be favoured by the Sikhs, which is against all probability and indeed against appearances of determined opposition.

But if contrary to expectation the Shah should approach beyond Lahore, and it should be necessary for me to proceed to his camp conformably to your instructions, I beg leave to solicit your indulgence for the attendance of a troop of cavalry from this station, as well for the greater security of the deputation at the time that the country will be in great disturbance, as for the purpose of shewing more respect to the Shah.

No. 55—Reported approach of Zaman Shah. Alarm of Sindhia's northern agents. Palmer advocates a defensive alliance with the Marathas.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 9th January 1797.

I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter received this day from my agent at the King's Durbar. I have also seen other accounts of Zaman Shah's troops being advanced to Lahore and in possession of that City.

Should these reports be confirmed in the course of three or four days, I shall dispatch *kasids* with a letter to inform the Shah of the complimentary and friendly deputation to him on which you have commanded me, and to enquire if my visit will be acceptable and my reception honourable.

I should have no hesitation in proceeding immediately to Delhi, especially as the King has expressed a wish that I should be with him on this emergency, if I was certain that it would be agreeable to Zaman Shah to receive my visit. But it appears to me unsuitable to the dignity of your Government that I should advance for that purpose without previous assurance on that point.

Chitoo [Jagu] Bapoo, the Maratha General, has written to me, in consequence of the succession of intelligence which he has received of the Shah's approach, to inform me of his intention to march immediately with his whole force to Agra, requesting to know what measure the Company and the Vizir intend to pursue in case the Abdalis should actually invade Hindostan, and intimating his inability to make effectual resistance without our support.

In answer to this enquiry and suggestion, I have referred him to the conversations which passed between him, Lakwa Dada, and myself on this subject when I was last in their camp, and which are detailed in my public addresses to you of that time, particularly under date the 8th of October last.

I have on this occasion repeated to Chittoo Bapoo, the assurances which I formerly gave him, of your entire satisfaction in the conduct of the Maratha Government as friends and neighbours, and of the concern which it would give you to see it overthrown, but that you were restricted by justice and regard to the law of nations from engaging in a contest between neutral powers, though you would not omit any justifiable precaution for the security of the Company's and the Vizir's Dominions.

And lest Chittoo Bapoo should be discouraged by this declaration from making any opposition to the Abdali invasion, which might expose the Vizir's dominions to additional danger, I thought it prudent to inform him also, that when the advance of the Shah's forces towards Hindostan should be ascertained, our troops in conjunction with the Vizir's would occupy a convenient post in his Excellency's frontier to cover it from attack or insult.

The Maratha Sardars appear to me to have neglected the best means of preventing or defeating the Shah's designs against them, by not having formed an alliance with the Sikhs and detached a strong body of their troops to cooperate with that nation in the Punjab, and to which they were invited by the principal Sikh Chieftains.

Possibly the Marathas were distrustful of the Sikhs, or might have been deterred from the alliance by their knowledge of the general disaffection to their Government which prevails in Hindostan, and I am apprehensive that the latter consideration will induce them to abandon the open country without resistance and retire behind the Chambal or even the Narbada.

No. 56—The Governor General approves of Palmer's suggestions as to British policy in the event of an Abdali invasion,

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL,

TO—COLONEL PALMER, RESIDENT WITH DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

Calcutta, 20th January 1797.

I have received your letter of the 9th instant. From my letter of the 1st ult. you will have been apprized that I considered a previous assurance

from Zaman Shah of a friendly reception as a necessary preliminary to the execution of my instructions for visiting him.

I approve the spirit and terms of your reply to Chittoo Bapoo, including your communication of the measures to be adopted by the Company and the Vizier for their mutual security.

Admitting the authenticity of the intelligence that the troops of Zaman Shah have actually taken possession of Lahore, it by no means follows that his object extends to the invasion of Hindostan, and at all events, considering the advanced state of the season and the obstacles to the execution of such a plan, I have little apprehension of his ability to carry it into effect this season.

I leave it to your discretion to repair to Delhi or not; recommending generally that situation which you may deem best calculated for obtaining early and accurate intelligence of the Shah's designs, motions, and forces, or for the eventual prosecution of your journey to meet him.

No. 57—Palmer reports Tipu Sultan's anti-British measures and dispatch of two secret agents to Zaman Shah.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 14th January 1797.

The intelligence which I have now the honour to transmit to you from Delhi, and other accounts to the same effect which Mr. Lumsden will have forwarded to you, leave little room to doubt of Zaman Shah being arrived in person at Lahore.

I am not sufficiently informed of the disposition or the ability of the Sikh Chieftains to oppose the progress of the Shah through their country. But if he seriously meditates the invasion of Hindostan, it may be supposed that he will exert his utmost effort to effect it, while Dawlat Row is absent with the best part of his force in the Deccan.

Many circumstances concur to make me suspect, that the Shah's views are more extensive than the mere expulsion of the Marathas from Hindostan, and that his expedition is planned in concert with Tipoo, for the ultimate purpose of depressing the British Power in India.

The persons who furnished me with the information of two disguised emissaries from the last-mentioned Prince to the Shah, have invariably persisted in the truth of their relation, and now assert that those messengers arrived long since in the Shah's camp.

I have heard, but not on good authority, that a Frenchman of consequence has been for some months at the Shah's Durbar, deputed by his nation from Europe, and who visited[?] on his way to Kabul.

These incidents combined with the suspicious appearance of Tipoo's keeping a large force assembled on the Nizam's frontiers and which he is augmenting under pretext of enforcing his claim on Kurnool, and with the equivocal negotiations of his vakeel at the Court of Hyderabad, have forcibly suggested to my apprehension, that the invasion of Hindostan by Zaman Shah has been concerted in the Deccan and has received secret aid from thence.

My conjectures may be overstrained, and some of the information on which they are forwarded may prove false. But I hope they will appear to merit your notice, as they will excite me to a vigilant and unremitting attention to the movements of Zaman Shah and the conduct of the native Governments in Hindostan.

Should my suspicions of the projected enterprize of the Shah being a combination with Tipoo for purposes injurious to the British interests, be confirmed by subsequent events, I trust that their designs would be completely frustrated by a junction of our force with that of the Marathas on the west side of the Jamna; and which the latter most ardently desire.

No. 58—Apprehensions of Zaman Shah's invasion. Shah Alam's attitude. Palmer advocates a defensive pact with the Marathas.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 15th January 1797.

I have the honour to forward for your information, further intelligence respecting Zaman Shah, received this day from Delhi.

I intended to have dispatched *kasids* with a letter to the Shah, immediately upon the advices of his having entered Lahore being confirmed, to acquaint him with your complimentary deputation to him, but I am apprehensive, that the presumption which such notice of your friendly disposition towards him would afford, might rather encourage him to pursue his march to Hindostan, while he would probably hesitate to advance under an ignorance of your intentions, and the notification of my mission may be deferred without inconvenience until he has passed the Satlej.

It is the opinion of many well learned persons in this quarter, that the Shah will remain this season in the Punjab to secure and regulate that country. But such a delay appears to me incompatible with any serious design of invading Hindostan hereafter, since it will afford leisure for Dawlat Row Sindia to return with his whole force now in the Deccan and to make every possible preparation for effectual resistance.

Shah Alam has expressed some anxiety for my being with him in this conjuncture, and possibly my attendance at his Durbar might be advantageous to the interests of the Company and the Vizir, by reconciling the views of Zaman Shah in Hindostan to the tranquillity of their dominions, if you should resolve to maintain perfect neutrality, so long as these are neither attacked nor insulted.

It is however generally believed that the resentment of Zaman Shah has been strongly excited against the Vizir, by the representations of Shah Alam, and it is not improbable that the reputed wealth of his Excellency's country and capital may have excited his avidity.

Under the suspicious circumstances of this apprehended invasion, I must confess that it appears to me that the safe course for our interest and security is to form a junction of our and the Vizir's troops with the Marathas, to keep the Abdali Prince out of Hindostan, rather than to trust to his good intentions or good faith after he may have obtained a footing in it.

No. 59—Sir John Shore's defensive measures in view of the threat of Abdali invasion.
Latitude given to Palmer.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL,

TO—LIEUT.-COLONEL PALMER, RESIDENT WITH DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

Calcutta, 25th January 1797.

I have received your letter of the 14th instant. Without discussing the probability of your suggestions respecting the objects of Zaman Shah and that his expedition is planned in concert with Tipoo for the ultimate purpose of depressing the British Power in India, it is certainly the duty of this Government to extend its vigilance and precaution against an invasion of the Abdali in proportion to the intelligence of its approach.

Whilst I express my approbation on the communication of your suggestions generally, I advert to the opinion expressed in the last paragraph of your letter, that the designs of Tipoo and Zaman Shah may be completely frustrated by a junction of our force with that of the Marathas on the west of the Jamna.

If the combined forces of the Nabob Vizir and the Company may be deemed sufficient for the protection of their respective territories, the measure ought to be avoided ; if otherwise, it then remains to consider whether a junction of both with the Maratha troops would afford an effective barrier to the progress of Zaman Shah, and whether even then it would be prudent to send the Company's army beyond the Jamna, considering the hazard of insurrection in the Vizir's Dominions.

The decision must evidently depend upon military as well as prudential considerations, and all that I would recommend at present is, that the advances made by the Marathas should neither be wholly rejected or admitted ; that, you communicate with the Maratha generals on the subject, obtaining from them a particular account of their forces and of their plans of defensive operations and that you transmit them, for my determinations to me at Benares, which I expect to reach in my progress towards Lucknow, by the 5th of the ensuing month. To save time it will also be proper to send them in duplicate to the Resident at Lucknow for my information.

General Morgan is directed to proceed to take the command of the army at the Upper stations, and you will also communicate all the information you can obtain, to him, who will receive discretional instructions for his guidance in this respect.

One condition I deem indispensable in the event of forming the proposed junction with the Maratha troops, that the united armies shall be under the absolute, sole and exclusive direction of General Morgan, or the Commanding English General.

I have this moment received your letter of the 15th and approve your demur in dispatching *kasids*, on the grounds stated by you ; and I leave it entirely to your discretion either to meet the Shah, as originally proposed under prescribed preliminaries, or to send my letter to his address, or finally to withhold it altogether.

No. 60—Movements of Zaman Shah's troops in the Ponjab. His doings in Lahore.

Delhi news.

Recd. 6th and 7th February 1797:—

22nd Rajab (21st January). Out of several pairs of harkarahts that have been sent hence towards Lahor for news of Zaman Shah and the Sikhs, none have yet returned, but it is rumoured that the Shah having left a few persons as a *thana* at Gujrat as well as at Ramnagar, in order to

the conciliating of the Zamindars in the tract of country contained within the Jhiam and the Chinab, and having then gone towards Lahor, the Sikh sardars of the country assembled themselves together and drove off the people of two or three thanas. The consequences remain to appear.

23rd Rajab (22nd January) His Majesty inquired of Sahib Singh concerning affairs at Lahor. The latter replied there was no foundation for the report that Zaman Shah's ministers intended to levy a contribution on the inhabitants of Lahor, any more than there was for the recent rumour that an engagement had taken place between the Shah and the Sikhs, in which many on both sides were killed and wounded, the Sikhs proving at length victorious. I learn from a correspondent that on the 12th of January the Shah's troops went secretly to attack the Sikhs at Amritsar, and it was the Shah's design to settle the subah of Lahor and to drive out of it the Sikh sardars.

24th Rajab (23rd January). From a letter arrived here to-day and written from Lahor on the 15th of January to the address of one Lalji, I understand that the Shah's army was marshalled within that city and that the fort was being cleansed by His Majesty's orders, his tents being on the above date 12 kos westward of Lahor facing the Darvish Shah Daula Bridge, and those of the Wazir Sher Muhammad two kos from Lahor on that side of the Ravi near the Makbara of Jahangir. The Shah's army, though hungry, were not using much violence against the people of the country. The *harawal* (vanguard) had been sent towards Amritsar, but on the road coming to an engagement with the Sikhs, and 2 or 3 hundred being killed and wounded on either side, they, considering they were few and the occasion was unfavourable, returned to Lahor.

No. 61—Sir John Shore explains that Lakhwa Dada was invited to Lucknow in order to consult him about the defence against Zaman Shah.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL,

TO—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

Lucknow, 3rd April 1797.

At the instance of His Excellency the Vizir, Lachman Anant Row (Lackwa Dada) was invited hither (Lucknow) for the purpose of learning the particulars of the consultations held between Colonel Palmer and the Maratha Commanders at the camp of the Hindostan army [of Dawlat Row Sindia] on the subject of preventing the invasion of the Dooranis. Although prior to Lachman Row's arrival I had received intelligence of Zaman Shah's retreat, yet I would not deny myself the pleasure of a

meeting with him. Knowing you to be a sincere friend of this State, I thought the communication of this would be satisfactory to you, and have therefore written it.

No. 62—Lt.-Col. Palmer appointed Resident at Poona vice Sir C. W. Malet. Lt.-Col. Roberts to succeed Palmer as Resident with Sindhia.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL,

TO—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

Written 20th May 1797.

In consequence of Sir C. W. Malet's resignation of the Residency at Poona, I have selected Lieut-Colonel Palmer to succeed him.

I reflect with great satisfaction on the cordial intercourse that has subsisted between this Government and your family during the long period of Lt.-Col. Palmer's Residence with the late Maharajah and you, and from that consideration should be unwilling to remove him from a situation which he has held to the satisfaction of both parties, did I not place an equal reliance upon the abilities, exertions and integrity of Lt.-Col. Roger Roberts whom I have selected to succeed him. As this gentleman is high in my confidence and well acquainted with the political affairs, the manners, customs and language of Hindostan, his nomination will, I doubt not, be perfectly satisfactory to you and tend to cement the harmony and good understanding that should always subsist between us. Colonel Roberts is invested with the same powers and authority held by his predecessor, and I therefore request that you will consider what he may represent in my name as coming immediately from me.

No. 63—Intelligence of Sindhia's orders and his North Indian agents' affairs.

FROM—CAPT. PARIS BRADSHAW, IN CHARGE OF RESIDENCY WITH SINDHIA,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 28th November 1797.

The Puna Dak of yesterday brought the customary paper of news from the Court of D. R. S. with a separate note. Intelligence received by this mode is generally meant to be concealed from the news-writers, who copy, or make summaries, of the original akhbars. The substance of this note,—
“The Rana of Udaipur and the Rathor and Kachwa chiefs have in concert

excited disturbances detrimental to the peace of Sindhia's Government in these places. By the counsel of the Rajput sardars the Rana has put in confinement his Diwan Shewdas and released from imprisonment his predecessor Bhim Singh, whom he has restored to his former possessions of Chitorgarh. The Rana and the Rajahs resolve to bear the yoke of the Marathas no longer, and agree to compel the forces of Ambaji to quit the territories wrested from them by the late Mahadji Sindhia.

Daulat Rao Sindhia, on hearing this report of the designs of the Rajahs, has despatched orders to Jaguji and Lakwa Dada to assemble all their forces and repair to Marwar and Mewar, leaving Khandooji Ingle with a sufficient army to invest Datia, if it should not already have fallen to his arms.

Letters to General Perron and to each of the officers commanding detached corps, have also been forwarded, directing them to consider themselves under the orders of Jaguji and Lakhwa Dada.

Fathgarh, 4th December 1797.

The Plague is said to occasion great mortality in the provinces of that quarter [Eastern Afghanistan] and Mirza Ahsan Bakht, son of Shah Alam, is afflicted with it.

Lehna Singh, subahdar of Lahor, died after a long illness, and his two sons dispute the succession to his estates. Ranjit Singh is exciting disturbances in the quarter of Multan and is even said to have taken that capital, [unconfirmed]. Newsletter from Lahor, 19th Jamadi awwal (9th November)—The Plague in Multan daily destroying a hundred souls. Abdullah Shah Darvish, commonly called Daulah Shah, died of it on the 9th current, and on the evening of the 8th a smart shock of earthquake was felt there.

No. 64—North Indian news—George Thomas makes incursion into Jaipur territory. Palmer joins at Poona as Resident.

FROM—CAPT. P. BRADSHAW, ASSISTANT RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Near Fathgarh, 27th February 1798.

An attempt on the part of Rodo[-ji] Khawas to surprise the camp of Mr. George Thomas by a night attack, was what brought on the engagement . . . Mr. Thomas, apprised of the design of the Jaipur General, moved out and encountered him. On the side of the Jaipurians 600 men were wounded or slain, 100 men only of the troops of Mr. Thomas have suffered in the conflict.

Fathgarh, 5th April 1798.

Lakwa Dada is well-known to be attached to the English, and Col. Palmer who had long known him, had more than once stated this favourable disposition in him, to the late Governor General as a ground for some indulgences he solicited.

The qiladar of Agra fort is Visram Bhau, the younger brother of Baloba Tatya, and perhaps not short of 60 years of age.

Col. Palmer (the new Resident) reached Puna on the 22nd March 1798.

No. 65—Lt.-Col. John Collins appointed Resident with Sindhia vice William Palmer.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL,

TO—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

7th March 1798.

Prior to this, I had the pleasure to inform you that I had nominated Lieut.-Colonel Palmer to the Residency at Poona, and Lieut.-Colonel Roberts as his successor to the Residency with you; as the ill health of the latter has since obliged him to resign that station and return to Europe, I have selected Lieut.-Colonel Collins, a gentleman who has resided many years in India and during my administration has held a very confidential situation in my family, and upon whose abilities, judgment, and integrity I have the fullest reliance, to fill that station. I have only to request that considering Colonel Collins as a representative of the Company's Government, you will through him maintain that intercourse with the Company's Government, which has so long subsisted to the advantage of both States and promote that friendship and harmony which the Company have ever been, and will continue, solicitous to preserve with you and the Maratha State. Colonel Collins will shortly set out from Calcutta for Fathgarh, and there remain until circumstances shall admit of his adjoining you.

FROM—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL,

TO—DAUWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

Calcutta, 7th March 1798.

I have already written to you, notifying the appointment of Colonel Collins to succeed Colonel Palmer as Resident at your Durbar. He will

have the pleasure of waiting on you through the medium of this letter, as the Representative of the company's Government. I doubt not he will meet with every proper mark of attention and civility from you, who are equally anxious with myself for the maintenance and improvement of our long existing harmony and attachment, which the Residence of Colonel Collins at your Court is intended and likely to produce. He will verbally assure you of my regard and my wishes for your prosperity and welfare.

SECTION 4

*John Collins becomes Resident to Sindhia, Oct. 1798.
Disorder in Hindustan due to rising of Mahadji's
widows (the Bais). Menace of Zaman Shah
Abdali's invasion and Wellesley's
defensive measures, 1798.*

NO. 66—Daulat Rao Sindhia reappoints Sadashiv Malhar (Bhau Bakshee) as the medium of his dealings with the English.

FROM—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Received 18th April 1798.

My Dewan Sadasheo Malhar (Bhow Bakshee) having for some time, from several circumstances, desisted from attending at my Durbar and remained entirely secluded, I lately (actuated by the esteem and regard I entertain towards him, and from a consideration of the fidelity of his attachment and the praiseworthy conduct he has in every instance displayed) went to his house, and having soothed and pacified him, prevailed upon him to accompany me, and have directed him to attend the Durbar regularly and to undertake the management of the affairs of his department as formerly. Accordingly, he has now resumed his duties confidently and permanently. As he was formerly the medium thro' which the intercourse and correspondence of the two States was carried on, I have to request that considering him as invested with his former office and

situation—you will make him as before the channel of communication between us. I have written this for your information, as the strictest friendship and amity of interest subsist between the two States.

Deeming me ever anxious to hear of your health and welfare, you will I trust, frequently rejoice me with your friendly letters.

No. 67—Friendly acknowledgment of the preceding letter.

FROM—ACTING GOVERNOR-GENERAL (SIR ALURED CLARKE),*

TO—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

Calcutta, 7th May 1798.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter (recapitulates that received 18th April 1798) and understand its contents.

As Bhow Buckshee has ever shewn himself a faithful servant to your family and a sincere well-wisher to both Sarkars, your notification of his reinstatement in the office he held is very satisfactory to me. Your going yourself to his house and shewing him those marks of your favor, was highly proper and becoming, upon the general principle of shewing favor to those who have merited it by their attachment; and as the bonds of alliance and harmony have long and closely been united between the two Sarkars, in conformity to your desire the same intercourse will be maintained through the Bhow's medium as formerly obtained.

No. 68—William Palmer replaces Malet as Resident at Poona.

FROM—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Received 17th May 1798.

I have been highly gratified by the receipt of your friendly letter notifying the appointment of Lieut. Colonel Collins to succeed Col. Palmer here (vide that written 7th March 1798), the contents of which are become manifest.

As the affairs of both Governments are as the affairs of one and whose respective interests admit of no distinction, the appointment of Lieut.

* Sir John Shore sailed away from India on 7th March 1798, and Sir Alured Clarke, the C-in-C., acted as Governor-General from that day till the arrival of Lord Mornington (afterwards Marquis Wellesley) in May next.

Col. Collins to reside here is undoubtedly commendable and proper, as he is a person endowed with excellent qualities and disposition and by the grace of God will cultivate and improve the friendship and union subsisting between the two Sarcars—He will continue according to your desire the channel of communication between us.

Col. Palmer is arrived in safety and we have had meetings together : As Col. Palmer has long been in our mutual confidence and is well acquainted with all confidential matters relating to the two Sarcars, your deputing him here (Poona) is a very prudent and proper measure.

Considering me desirous of news of your health and welfare, you will continue to communicate it.

No. 69—The new Governor-General (Wellesley) unfolds his policy of defence against Zaman Shah and asks for Sindhia's co-operation against Tipu Sultan.

FROM—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL,

TO—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

Written July 8th, 1798.

I have already had the pleasure to address a Letter to you, notifying my arrival in this country and expressive of the kind and friendly sentiments I entertain towards you, which I trust you will have received.

It is always my wish to maintain the relations of amity and goodwill with you, and being constantly anxious for the maintenance of your prosperity and welfare, I inform you that I have received a communication from Zaman Shah, announcing his intention of visiting Hindostan, and demanding my assistance, and that of the Nabob Vazier for the purpose of restoring the throne of Delhi to Shah Alam, and of expelling the Mahrattas from Hindostan. Colonel Palmer, in whose wisdom and experience I repose the greatest confidence, will have the honor to communicate to you the papers which were received by the Resident of Lucknow from Zaman Shah.

If Zaman Shah should invade Hindostan, it will be necessary for all the established Powers upon the North Western Frontier to be vigilant and to attend carefully to the defence of their respective territories. For this purpose whenever you should return into your own dominions, you shall find the British Resident at your Durbar instructed by me to enter into a defensive treaty with you for the reciprocal protection of your dominions,

of those of the Nabob Vizir, and of those of the Company against the threatened invasion of Zaman Shah.

With these friendly intentions towards you, it would give me great satisfaction to learn that your own prudence and your regard for the safety of your invaluable possessions on the north western frontier of India, had suggested to you the propriety of returning to Hindostan, for the purpose of taking the requisite precautions against the impending danger. Your friendship for the Company, which I believe always to be sincere, furnishes another motive to induce you not to protract your stay in the Dominions of the Peshwa.

The conduct of Tipoo Sultan having lately been of a very offensive and hostile nature towards the British Government and its allies, it is therefore necessary for me in conjunction with the Nizam and with the Peshwa (being all united by treaty) to demand satisfaction of Tipoo. I earnestly hope that Tipoo may satisfy the just expectations of the Allies without compelling them to resort to arms, my uniform disposition being to preserve peace with him and with every Power in India. But under the circumstances of Tipoo's preparations for war, prudence requires that the Allies should be prepared on their part, to meet any exigency that may arise. The present position of your army prevents both the Peshwa and the Nizam from fulfilling their defensive engagements with the British Government against the menaced attacks of Tipoo. As you are the friend of the Company, you will be sensible of the propriety and justice of my amicable request, and you will not continue to occupy a position which disables the Allies of the Company from acting, where their assistance is due, under the solemn obligation of existing treaties.

When you arrive in your own dominions, you will there find Colonel Collins, whom Sir John Shore appointed Resident at your Durbar and whom I have confirmed in that appointment, placing equal reliance on his abilities. He will have the honour to present my particular respects to you ; and in addition to a defensive treaty against Zaman Shah he will offer my mediation for the adjustment of all differences between you, and the Nizam and the Peshwa.

Nothing would make me so happy as to become the instrument of peace and reconciliation between you and the Courts of Hyderabad and Poona ; for I consider you all as the friends of the Company, and it has given me great concern to witness your late unfortunate dissensions.

I intreat you to understand that this letter is dictated by a spirit of friendship and of anxiety for your real interests ; I refer you to Colonel Palmer for the particulars of all my sentiments towards you, and I hope thro' him to hear a satisfactory account of your welfare, and to obtain an additional pledge of your amicable disposition.

No. 70—George Thomas makes Hansi his capital—Vaman Rao his ally.

FROM—P. BRADSHAW, ASSISTANT RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA ;

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 11th May 1798.

George Thomas, retreating from the Jaipur territory, has considerably augmented his force, established himself in the ancient town of Hansi, the fort of which he has had [re-]modelled and strengthened, and makes a formidable appearance in the territory of Rewari, either levying contributions or possessing himself of the forts to support his footing in that district . . . Vaman Rao, the Maratha chief of Rewari, [the nephew and successor of Apa Khande Rao who died on 25th June 1797] is suspected of acting in concert with Mr. Thomas, as if at this period of the distraction of D. R.'s affairs in Hindustan he designed to make himself independent.

No. 71—Shah Alam's futile designs against Sindhia's power. Ambaji's force retires from Bhopal. Mahadji's widows urge Sindhia's generals in Malwa to rise against Daulat Rao.

FROM—CAPT. PARIS BRADSHAW, ASST. TO RESIDENT WITH D. R. SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 29th June 1798.

I had the honor to address you on the 14th instant, since which the channels of intelligence have brought but few particulars that, without risking intrusion, I could venture to lay before your Lordship.

I am informed that his Majesty Shah Alam, attentive to the progress of Sindia's family dissensions at Poona, which threatens his Government both there and in Hindustan with the last consequences, had remarked to the agent of this Residency at Delhi that in the event of the dissolution of the power of Dawlat Rao, he would attempt to secure himself against the usurpation of his successor over the royal authority, and free himself from the continuance of the distresses he has so long experienced under the superintendence of the Marathas, by at once assuming the independent management of his own concerns in the Subah of Delhi. To assist him in effecting this, His Majesty counts on commanding the services of Zebun Nisa Begam (the widow of Samroo) with her four battalions, equipped and officered after the manner of the Honorable Company's :

and likewise of drawing to his aid three matchlock battalions, and one thousand horse under Mr. George Thomas; and he expressed his reliance that the numerous Mussalman Sardars inhabiting the Country formerly governed by Zabeta Khan, would be readily induced to join the royal standard.

As I have no knowledge of any character at His Majesty's Court distinguished for ability requisite to conduct an enterprize of this kind, and that the great age, infirmity and indigence of the King render him peevish and apt to talk extravagantly, which he might naturally indulge, on the occasion of the receipt, at that time, of a letter from his son Mirza Ahsan Bakht at Multan, stating his intention to accompany Zaman Shah in his rumoured approach by that route into Hindostan, I deemed the information not entitled to occupy a part in a public address; but the increasing embarrassment of Sindia's situation, and the intention His Majesty has declared of investing His Excellency the Vizir with the Khilat of that office, without regard to the interference of the Marathas, just come to my knowledge from the agent at his Durbar, gave an air of seriousness to the communication in proportion as one event seemed verging to a crisis, and that in the accomplishment of the other, latent hopes from the Vizir were indulged in furtherance of the plan of His Majesty, I have no longer held myself at liberty to forgo the honor of presenting the circumstance for your Lordship's consideration.

Shah Nizam-ud-din, the new Subadar of Dehli, seeks pretences to evade taking charge of his trust, alarmed by the insecurity created by the appearance of change in the Government of his master, which is now generally looked for, not as what is probable but as a consequence hardly to be avoided.

Compelled by its inability to act offensively, the Maratha army has at length abandoned the attempt against Bhopal, and the detachment of Ambajee's force under his brother Bala Rao, which had co-operated with the Jhari Fauj, has separated and directed its route to a different quarter. The army thus defeated in its designs against the Afghans, has removed to about 14 kos distance from their territory, pursuing its predatory wandering to exact tribute from the inferior Rajahs and Zamindars who want the power to resist its demands.

I learn from the Maheshwar papers that Narain Rao, in the name of the widow Bais of the late Sindia, had addressed the Sardars in charge of the principal Maratha army to march immediately to Ujjain and preserve the peace and Government of that City, under the authority of that letter. Today's intelligence from the Maratha Camp relates that three letters had arrived there from these ladies under the seal of their late Lord, directed severally to Jaggoo Bapoo, Lackwadada, and the Sardars now in charge of the army, commanding the latter to release the former two, and these to

take upon them the command of the army in behalf of the widows of the deceased Mahajee Madhoo Rao Sindia. At present the only effect those orders have produced is that of a closer confinement of Jaggoo Bapoo and his colleague, which may be as much the consequence of fear from the resentment of the deputies, as any motive of principled allegiance to a Chief whose conduct has left him few friends.

Ali Bahadur has lately been addressed by the Peshwa, but the subject of that letter has not, that I can learn, transpired ; it may in part relate to the marriage of Chimna Apa into the family of Ali Bahadur's Dewan, as given in the native papers.

In the late accounts from Maheshwar the troops of Ragojee Bhosla are said to have engaged and defeated the Kiladar of Garh Mandala, who quit his fort to try the fortune of a pitched battle. The slaughter on both sides is reported to be very considerable, and the fort to have fallen into the hands of Ragojee's General.

My intelligence from Jaynagar denies the existence of any news there relative to the design of Zaman Shah to enter Hindostan by the desert, nor of any accounts from Kabul similar to that which I had the honor to state my doubt of, to your Lordship, in communicating in my last address, the credit such rumour had acquired.

No. 72—Delhi news. Sindhia's Qiladar of Delhi joins the side of the Bais.

FROM—P. BRADSHAW, ASSISTANT RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL,

Fathgarh, 11th July 1798.

. . . Mirza Shujaet Ali, brother to H. E. the Wazir, had arrived a few days back at Delhi with about 100 followers, that he attempted without success, to take possession of either of the palaces belonging to the Wazir, of Burhan-ul-mulk or Safdar Jang ; and that he manifests much anxiety to be presented to the King. This honor was refused him, as he brought no letter from his brother permitting it, or any notification from your Government that such visit would meet its approbation . . . Some soldiers of fortune have joined him, and he is ready to entertain more, as if he meditated the execution of some plan of independence.

Fathgarh, 21st July 1798.

Poundagir Tantia, the qiladar of the fort of Shah Jahanabad, which he governs by his deputy Bhau Bhaskar, has gone over to the side of the

widows of the late Sindhia; . . . , the reversion of the qiladarship has been for the present conferred on the son of Shah Nizam-ud-din, who is also subahdar of Delhi. Poundagir Tantia writes to his deputy to retain possession of the fort in the name of the Bais, to possess himself of the King's person, and to resist any attempt to force either from him.

No. 73—Letters from the Bais cause dissensions among Daulat Rao's officers in Hindustan. Attitude of Perron and of Begam Samru.

FROM—PARIS BRADSHAW, ASSISTANT RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 25th July 1798.

I am informed from the Maratha Camp that letters have been received there on the 11th instant addressed by Narain Rao and the widow of the late Maharaja Pateel, to the confined Sardars, to Raojee Sindia and the other leaders of the army, to Begam Samroo and to Mr. Perron, charging these latter to reinstate the deposed deputies on their regard for the memory of their late Prince. The dates of these letters are said to be two days after the attack of Amrut Rao's Camp by the battalions of Daulat Rao.

There is a division of sentiment on this subject among the acting officers in charge of the camps, the majority of whom I understand are inclined to declare in favor of the cause of the Bais, but no resolution is yet taken on the contents of these letters, and it is probable that none will shortly, in consequence of the slow and indecisive proceedings of Maratha councils. It does not appear that any object of incitement is held out by the proposers of this change, as if the characters of Dowlat Rao and his favorites were considered to be sufficiently powerful, not to need the aid of other motives of interest, in determining his servants to depart from their duty at the call of those who feel themselves oppressed. But there is probability that no offer is made by the Bais from the consideration that a reconciliation may yet be effected between them and Sindia.

Mr. Perron's situation might not easily be bettered by shifting masters, as I am told he enjoys the same advantage of percentage on the income of the *jaidad* as was bestowed on his predecessor, and that he is more disposed to retire from the service altogether than to flatter himself with extravagant hopes from the consequences of a revolution.

The Begam has no desire to depart from her dependence inconsistent with the security of her jagir, which however she may think of difficult attainment under the unfeeling rapacity of the necessitous Government of Dawlat Rao. She is too wise to risk her present tranquillity during the balanced condition of the Poona dispute by taking part with the Bais.

No advance from the insurgents has been made to Ambajee, who seems cautiously to look forward to the termination of the quarrel, little as he is disposed to assume the temporary control of Sindia's affairs in the quarter by repairing to the command of the Jhari Fauj; the Sardars in authority are no less inclined to resign the advantages they derive from the unrestrained power they exercise at the head of an army at best but irregular. Ambajee is still at Narwar, and the Jhari Fauj a march at this side of Rajgarh Patan.

I beg leave to trouble your Lordship with the enclosed paper of news relative to the intentions of Zaman Shah, which I have but this instant received from Jaynagar.

No. 74—The release of Jagu Bapu and Lakhwa Dada imminent. Disorder in Sindhia's northern territories caused by the war of the Bais. News from Delhi and Jaipur.

FROM—PARIS BRADSHAW, ASST. RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 3rd Aug. 1798.

I am assured from a quarter on which I can rely that the enlargement of Jagu Bapu and his colleague may be immediately expected; that Lakwa Dada has himself written to that effect to the qiladars of Agra, Koil, and Kishangarh, who hold these forts under him, lest they should yield to any summons for their surrender; and that Bapuji Sindhia and Jaswant Rao Sindhia are declaredly for investing them with their former power. The father of the former, acting an equivocal part at Puna and meditating a junction with the Bais, had written to his son to aid in the restoration of the late representatives, and proclaim the authority of these ladies.

Harji Sindhia, the Sardar who executed the arrest of Jaguji and Lakwa Dada, and in whose custody they still continue, although he treats them with all the kindness consistent with the security of such a charge, remains unshaken in his fidelity to D. R. But the long arrears of pay due to the army and no prospect of a speedy relief from the present leading Sardars, together with a personal regard for the late commanders, are beginning to work a disposition in the soldiery to baffle the loyal endeavours of Harji

Sindhia. To this growing spirit of revolution the agents of the confined deputies are actively adding every encouragement. The best informed of the separate interests of these petty chiefs are therefore of opinion that the authority of D. R. cannot much longer be maintained in the Jhari Fauj, whether it shall be overthrown by the general determination of its sardars or by the mutinous act of the needy battalions whose immediate wants may be satisfied with a bribe, or who see in the enlargement of the sardars in arrest, a probability of payment of part of their arrears. Should this event take place, the seizure of Ujjain in the name of the widows of Sindhia, it is conjectured, would be the first object of the army. Daulat Rao's repeated order first to retreat to Narwar, is likely to be in consequence of such apprehension, as much of his family treasures are deposited in that city.

Madhav Rao Phalke, the nazim of Saharanpur, is secretly in the interests of the Bais, and waits but for intelligence of the measures of the Jhari Fauj in their behalf, to avow his determination of revolt to their cause, which virtually subverting the authority of D. R. in Hindustan, will terminate his dispute at Puna, unless the force of his enemies now accumulating against him in that quarter and the threatened loss of his northern dominions, should have previously closed it on ignominious terms to him. Haibat Rao Phalke, the relation of the Saharanpur nazim, is of the confederate party in the camp of the Bais, and their cousin, Lakwaji Patil in the Jhari Fauj, does not conceal his partiality for the same cause.

Jaswant Rao Holkar, natural brother of Kashi Rao Holkar, has joined a party of Girassis [Grasias] with whom he lays waste the Hindustani dominions of his brother with intent to force from him the settlement of a jagir or allotment of some other means of regular subsistence.

Little credit is given to the mission of Mohammed Hussen Khan Vakeel of Zaman Shah, to whom the Rajah of Jaynagar maintains the same conduct with which he treated Golam Ahmed Khan his predecessor in the same ostensible character. It is observed by the Rajah's Minister that when Zaman Shah came as far as Lahore he sent no summons or letter to their prince, that it was less probable he would do so now when the impression of his power was proportionably lessened by the distance between them, and that therefore they could not but regard the present messenger in a light little favourable to the dignity of that monarch, at whose Court, letters such as he brought, might be purchased for a trifle, as the traffic was as easy and notorious as the adventurers in it were penurious.

I have the honor to enclose Your Lordship a few lines on this subject received from Jaynagar, less and what I can venture to offer as authentic

than to expose the source of those rumours of the Shah's intentions, which at this season generally gain ready belief.

I have also the honor to enclose a *shukā* from his Majesty Shah Alam to Your Lordship's address, containing a repetition of a request in favor of his sons, Mirza Sekandar Shuko, and Mirza Zain-ud-din, for provision from his Excellency the Vizeer, which Your Lordship will have perceived, has been often urged without success.

Bhow Bhaskar continues to strengthen himself in the fort of Delhi and relies on the support of Madhav Row Phalke, whom it is reported he has invited to his assistance. But he has hitherto remained unmolested, and both Shah Nizam-ud-din and Mr. Perron have sent him assurances that they will not disturb him, which is doubtless the result of good policy, as by any attempt to dispossess him, adherents of the Bais might become united prematurely and commotion be set on foot to the manifest detriment of the affairs of Daulat Rao.

No. 75—The fight for Delhi fort among Sindhia's officers. Disorder in all his northern possessions. Threat of Zaman Shah's invasion.

FROM—CAPT. PARIS BRADSHAW,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 14th Aug. 1798.

Since the 8th instant, when I had the honour to convey, under cover to the Persian Interpreter, for your Lordship's information, copy of a paper of intelligence received by express from Poona, the *daks* from that quarter have not arrived to enable me to submit to you any further particular of the sudden and violent seizure and imprisonment of the chief ministers of Sindia. A delay of this nature usually follows such expeditions if no extraordinary occurrence takes place in the interim, which may admit of belief that the removal of these counsellors was not without the privity of Dowlat Row, since, if otherwise, some new event would necessarily have happened and been as certainly communicated if sufficiently important to deserve it. That it is an act of Sindia's, is asserted by my intelligence from Dehly, not from the probability of it, but I believe on better grounds of information, and given as a reason for Bhow Bhaskar the Killadar having disbanded the new levies he had entertained, with a design of maintaining himself in the fort, and the same account stating

that the negotiation between Nana Furnawees and Sindia had been concluded to the satisfaction of both parties, is regarded as suggesting to the Kiladar that he would best consult his interest as well as safety by an early submission. But the march of two battalions to Dehly detached by Mr. Perron from Muttra, and the subversion of Madhoo Row Phalke's authority by the petty officers of the army he commanded, are circumstances more likely to account for the conduct of Bhow Bhaskar.

Madhoo Row Phalke had reached Hasangarh, about 18 coss to the west of Dehly, whither he was directing his march with two regular battalions, between three and four thousand horse and a rabble of sibandeas not ascertainable in number from the nature of their service, when he and the person next to him in command were put under restraint by the silladars of the army. It is not yet known whether this be an act of their own, or in obedience to some secret orders from Sindia, nor have any previous proceedings, in that camp, been related to me.

(Subordination however by this step being deprived of its support, the ill consequences soon appeared in the heinous depredation of the troops on the surrounding villages, which if my information be just, were alike bloody and indiscriminate. The inhabitants of a village under the Marhatta subjection, I am informed, were entirely put to the sword with the loss of one hundred men to the plundering party, and two hundred ryats of His Excellency the Vizeer's State in the neighbouring districts are also said to have been massacred, notwithstanding hostages for the payment of the contribution demanded had been previously accepted of and received in the Maratha camp. These are enormities the commission of which your Lordship may not readily be disposed to credit, but it is my duty to record for your information the occurrences of Sindeah's Government in this quarter, the confusion of which renders less questionable any improbable relation of it.

(Distrust and dislike of Sindia so generally prevail among his subjects in Hindoostan that he is now left with scarce one attached leader of distinction in either of his Maratha armies in his northern dominions. Mutual suspicion has occasioned the flight of many and the confinement of others, whilst the soldiery, freed from the checks of immediate control, assume, as if by sanction, the power of discretionary pillage, and it seems possible as a desperate resource, if not to secure their fidelity and service to their master, at least to prevent their revolt to the party of his intestine enemies, the Bais.)

The cause which has detained the Poona *dak* has also kept back the intelligence of the Jhari Fauj. I understand however that the plan

for the enlargement of the confined sardars by corrupting the army has entirely failed by a seasonable payment of two months' arrears of pay by the leaders of it.

One of the two Persian papers which I have herewith the honor to forward to your Lordship, is a copy of a letter from Ghulam Muhammad Khan Vakeel of Zaman Shah, addressed to his agent at Delhi from a place 10 coss at this side of Jummoo. The other enclosure is also a copy of a letter to the King from his niece at Kabul, the daughter of Timur Shah, and may serve to give some idea of the anxiety with which the arrival of Zaman Shah is desired and expected by the unfortunate sovereign of Delhi. By intelligence from Jaynagar received yesterday, Golam Muhammad Khan the Elchi and the late Rampoor chief of the same name, I learn on the authority of Muhammad Hussien Khan, were arrived at Srinagar. For a day or two past the same account has been current at this station as coming from Rampoor. The Rohila purposes to remain at Nahan, or as others mention, Srinagar, and to entrust the letters he bears from Zaman Shah to your Lordship to the Vakeel who comes on without delay with others of that nature to your address. This person is the same who was deputed to the Mahratta Sardars on the invasion of Panjab last year by Zaman Shah.

Muhammad Husain Khan, the Shah's Vakeel at Jaynagar, has not yet been presented to the Rajah. The Rajah is averse to receive him, although he is much urged to admit it by one of his ministers who interests himself in behalf of the Vakeel.

P.S.—I had closed my letter and was on the eve of dispatching it, as the western *dak* bringing the papers from Poona and the Jherry Fouj came in. Although the confinement of the Ministers is owing to a different cause than I have mentioned to be the opinion of those who pretend to be well informed of the occurrences in Dowlut Row's camp, I have not thought the difference a sufficient reason for me to postpone the departure of this address to another day. Bhow Bakshy and Aba Chitnavees are known to be on terms of cordial intercourse, and it may be collected from hints in the papers just received that the old Ministers of the late Sindia are secretly at the bottom of the disorders (discontents) in the Regular Battalions, which seem to indicate perhaps the revolution that his enemies desire. But Your Lordship, in possession of the true state of the intrigues direct from Poona, will receive with indulgence this conjecture on the uncertain relation of a public news paper. Similar discontents with those at Poona agitate the battalions in the Jherry Fouje for the two months' discharge of arrears promised and [said to be paid them] evaded, and likely to be protracted, until the same scene shall be acted here which is so derogatory and dangerous to the dignity and power of Doulat Row, immediately in his camp.

No. 76—Jagu Bapu escapes from prison. Lakhwa Dada released. Ruin of Daulat Rao's northern Government. News of revolted Oudh princes.

FROM—CAPT. PARIS BRADSHAW, ASST. RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 28th August 1798.

You are already apprised of the escape from confinement of Jaggoo Bapoo on the 5th instant, and its consequence the release of his colleague Lackwa Dada three days after it. I have now the honor to acquaint your Lordship of the reassumption by the former, on the 14th, under the observances of public form, of the chief direction of Sindia's Government in this quarter, in the name of the widows of the late Pati, and that on the 16th following Lakwa Dada was associated with him in the joint command as before their arrest.

None of the principal Sardars of the Camp were present at either ceremony on this occasion, nor have they by subsequent attendance at the Durbar so far recognized this usurpation of the representative authority. Whatever be the effect they design, shall appear from their reluctance in this point. Your Lordship is fully informed what little opposition they have given it. Their further stay with the army is considered embarrassing to the new leaders, who I am told will take the first opportunity to remedy it by detaching them on service.

Previous to the days fixed for their formal investiture as the Ministers of the Bais, Jaggoo Bapoo and Lackwa Dada sent circular letters for the several Killadars and amils, and to Mr. Perron, the commander of Dowlut Row's regular infantry in Hindostan, proclaiming the administration of these ladies and commanding submission to it. The Killadar of Delhi soon conformed to an injunction which confirmed his appointment, formerly received from the Bais, on the defection of his principal to their cause; and now resolutely refused compliance to a summons to deliver up the fort from the commanding officer of two battalions detached by Mr. Perron to dispossess him of it, and to whom he was on the point of surrendering it when he found himself unsupported by the late occurrence in Madho Row Phalke's camp.

Mr. Perron seems resolved to force him to his terms. But the residence of the King in the fort, and that Bhow Bhaskar is encouraged in resistance by Jaggoo Bapoo and his colleague, will prevent violent measures if not a relinquishment of his intention altogether.

(While the decline of Sindia's affairs increased under the mismanagement of them which followed the imprisonment of his deputies, and that

Ambaji seemed suspended as to the part he would assume during the existence of the difficulties which threaten his master, Mr. Perron took that opportunity to displace the amils in and about Mathura and the adjacent country and to appoint others of his own election in their room. This alteration in the rulers of the [Sindhian dominions] is therefore regarded by him with dissatisfaction, as it opposes and must supersede an authority he exercised independent of the latter Sardars, and for which it appears he had obtained a sanction from Dowlut Row. There is no ground to believe he will expose the interests of his employer to the result of any contention to retain the influence he derived from those appointments, nor can it be supposed he will adopt the example set him both here and at Poona in favouring the party of the Bais, as it is not the interest of either him or the new chiefs, to recur to the one, nor is the time arrived for him to declare for the other.

It is reported to me that the province of Malwa, which has not been much subjected to the destructive presence of a Marhatta Cantonment, and promises a richer harvest than the impoverished districts to the north-east, will be the destination of the Jherry Fouj. It is expected this measure will dispose Sindia to expedite an accommodation, while delay which is likely to weaken him, must be less inconvenient to the army subsisting at free quarters in the heart of his family dominions.

This revolution so detrimental to Sindia, is said to have been effected by means of the commandants of three corps of infantry and of the artillery department. Although they were indebted for their situations to Jaggoo Bapu and Lackwa Dada, they yet seemed induced to aid in their release, chiefly by the distress arising from their long arrears which impelled them to receive relief from any quarter that offered it. To these therefore the accomplishment of this event may be ascribed, though there is ground enough to believe, if no declared disaffection actuated the principal Sardars, that their private views were not unattended to in a transaction of this importance, which would not otherwise appear easily practicable without commotion, violence, and bloodshed. But it does not more strongly denote the absence of all sort of Government, and the feeble attachment of those chiefs to their Prince, than it marks the peculiarity of the Maratha character, which prefers the patient intricate involutions of management and intrigue for obtaining its ends, to the hazard of open and decisive proceedings.

Whatever be the consequence to Sindia of the accession of his internal enemies in Hindoostan to the cause of the insurgents at Poona, and it must be supposed of the most mischievous kind, no view of it presents any probability of events arising from it tending to destroy the tranquillity of the dominions of his Excellency the Vizeer, while it increases the necessity for the mediating influence of your Lordship's Government.

Mirza Shujaat Ali, brother of his Excellency the Vizeer, whom I had the honor to mention in my address to your Lordship of the 11th ultimo, as having arrived at Delhi under some impressions of displeasure with his brother, is now I am informed, bent on visiting Jaynagar, with the avowed design of seeking the protection of Zaman Shah, and for this purpose quitted Delhi on the 22nd instant. He is entirely governed by some designing persons about him, and though not averse to return to Lucknow, has been prevailed on to slight the offer of a restoration of his allowances on condition of his repairing back to Lucknow or Fyzabad which he left without his Excellency's approbation. Aga Muhammad, the preceptor of the late Vizeer, is at Jaynagar. On the death of his master he became much noticed by Wazir Ali Khan, but on the accession of his present Excellency the Vizir, feeling neglected, he set out with an intention to proceed direct to Mecca, but has now I hear resolved first to visit Kabul. I am not acquainted with his real character, and unable to say whether business or curiosity leads him so circuitously out of his way, and whether it may not be a part of his plan to travel in company with his Excellency's brother. If he is a person to be depended on, as he confessedly is of abilities, his Excellency might derive those advantages from employing him at the court of Zaman Shah which are suggested by Colonel Palmer in his address to the late Governor General under date the 3rd May 1798.

No. 77—Movements of Jagu Bapu and Lakhwa Dada. Deterioration in Sindia's northern administration. Disorder and poverty. Mir Abdul Karim, envoy from Zaman Shah, unfolds the Shah's designs.

FROM—P. BRADSHAW, ASST. RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 13th September 1798.

[A gradual acquiescence of parties in the late revolution which I had the honor to communicate to your Lordship on the 28th ultimo, is the most striking appearance that the occurrences in the Hindoostanee dominions of Sindia for the last sixteen days have presented for your Lordship's information. The powerful influence of Jaggoo Bapoo and Lakhwa Dada, which receives considerable aid from the uniform tenor of unfavourable relation of Sindia's situation in the Deccan, seems to promise a general submission to it. Among the discontented Sardars a declining reluctance to be reconciled to the new Government begins to appear, and the partisans in this quarter of Dowlat Row's enemies at Poona, hitherto deterred or unenticed to come forward, discover (declare) themselves

daily and by their accession strengthen the usurpation, which has already acquired an importance and manifested an enmity that seem to threaten expulsion from the masnad as the alternative to the unqualified submission of Sindia to the terms of the confederates. Although such a measure has been contemplated and talked of here, I yet find it no easy matter to ascertain whether any serious intention has been entertained at Poona, of divesting him of power. Possibly the difficulty of choosing a successor prevents the recurrence to such an arrangement, for the person of the late Sindia's grandson being in the power of Dowlat Rao, the adherents of the family I understand, would consider the selection of a chief from the elder branches of it as a transfer of the sovereignty, equally detrimental to the present line of it, as if bestowed on any other indifferent person whatever.

Nana Dewan and Antaji Pant Backshee, the former commanders in the quarter of Saharanpoor, have been released from confinement and reinstated by authority of the new Government. A detachment of troops is about to march to Ujjain, where as I am informed, Sindea's power being wavering and weak is less expected to oppose than yield submission, and is said to have already declared for the disaffected party. So that with the exception of Ambajee's territory, the country of Dowlat Row from Patiala to the Narbada, may be accounted under the control of the followers of the Bais.

Jaggoo Bapoo and Lackwa Dada, have proposed a conference of Marhattas with Mr. Perron and Ambajee. Ambajee has declined the interview, while the confidential intercourse which he maintains with Mr. Perron is more closely cultivated, he supplying him with cannon from Gwalior(?) and both increasing their strength daily. The expedition against Bhopal which is resolved to be renewed, will furnish an opportunity of detaching the discontented sardars from the Camp, and for trying the sentiments of Ambajee, from whom a requisition of troops is made for that service.

Mr. Perron had some few days back reinforced his two battalions at Delhi with about 500 irregulars and 100 horse. Today I am informed he has detached a second reinforcement of three battalions with a suitable proportion of artillery to that city; as if determined to reduce the fort. On the other hand, the army lately under Madho Row Phalke, but now commanded by Nana Dewan and Antajee Backshee, threatens destruction to the city in support of the Kelladar. Mr. Perron is certainly alarmed at the progress of Jaggoo Bapoo and his colleague, as he will be proceeded against unless he temporises.

The change which the Maratha Government has undergone in this part, has not been announced to this Residency by any public intimation from the successful party. A similar silence towards it is observed in

regard to the approach of Zaman Shah, although all reports agree that the expulsion of the Marhatta nation is one of the chief objects of his expedition in Hindoostan. But the family and domestic discords of Sindhea's administration leave but little time for foreign concerns.

Meer Abdul Kareem, a person in the character of Vakeel from Zaman Shah, appeared with four horsemen at the outskirt of this Cantonment on the morning of the 9th instant. He was conducted to General Stuart, to whom he presented a letter from the King to Colonel Palmer. The General referred him to me, and he accordingly made me a visit the following morning, gave me the letter directed to Colonel Palmer, and informed me he had others for your Lordship, the Vizeer, and Mr. Lumsden, and that he would be obliged to me for my advice in regard to their delivery. Having gratified his enquiry, he promised to wait on me the next morning, with the letter for your Lordship, and observed he would then take his leave of me as he was anxious to lose no time in appearing at Lucknow. I prepared the customary present of ceremony for him, on his departure the ensuing day, on which he punctually came, but without the letter which he excused himself for not bringing, on account of the wetness of the morning which was uncommonly rainy and his mode of travelling being on horse back; but he requested I would permit the Munshee of the Residency to receive it from him at his residence in the city of Farruckabad, which I assented to as the Munshee had visited him by my desire the evening before to satisfy himself of many particulars in relation to his mission. The intended present was laid before him, he accepted it, and took his leave. He has since changed his mind, and refusing to deliver the letter to Mr. Lumsden he said he will either do it at Lucknow or proceed with it to Calcutta in expectation of the honor of laying it in person before your Lordship, according as he shall be instructed of the speedy or protracted approach of his Master into Hindoostan.

I discover on enquiry that this person left Cabul a month later than Golam Ahmad Khan, from which he is now absent thirteen months, that he overtook Golam Ahmad at Multan, whence they proceeded in company to Jaynagar, that there falling sick, he parted with his companion (whom I had the honor particularly to mention in my address of the 11th May to the late acting Governor General) and that he consequently brings no intelligence either newer or more interesting than is contained in the above address.

I suspect the letters he brings, which are counterparts of those delivered by Golam Ahmad, have been sent after him from Cabul, as they are I learn two months later dated than the period he asserts of his departure. He says he is the first cousin of the Meer Munshee of Zaman

Shah's daftardar. The letter for Colonel William Palmer being the same as that of which I had the honor to forward a copy with my address of the 11th of May, I have judged it proper not to trouble your Lordship with a repetition of it.

Meer Abdul Kareem informs me that his Master means to reside five or six years in Hindoostan, the more effectually to restore the Mogal monarchy. That he designs to proclaim Mirza Akbar Shah, whose daughter is to be given him in marriage. That the object of his entering Hindoostan by the route of Bikaner is first to pay a religious visit to the celebrated dargah of Chisty in Ajmer in propitiation of his enterprize, and that he holds it as an important act of devotion to extirpate the Marhatta nation from Hindoostan. It is his sincere desire, the Vakeel informs me, to cultivate the friendship of the English and he trusts we will regard his arrival in no other light than that of the friend of the House of Timur and the foe only of its enemies.

The Vakeel further acquainted me that the reception of Golam Mohammad Khan of Rampoor was not as favourable at Cabul, as credited from report. That the act which thus compelled him to wander so far to his protection, was held in abhorrence by Zaman Shah, and that any assurance of assistance he might have given the Rohila had no other meaning than that of a consolatory nature on his distress; Both Meer Abdul Kareem and his predecessor in the same capacity Golam Ahmad Khan, manifest a strong dislike of the mission of Golam Mohammad Khan, the Elchee who set out by Cashmir for Hindoostan; they spoke slightly of his person, and assert that if he brings any Khilat for the Vizeer, it must be one prepared by himself.

I am informed that Meer Abdul Kareem has forwarded under observances of secrecy a letter from Zaman Shah to Mirza Akbar Shah, the subject of which I am yet unable to learn. This is the only circumstance regarding him that induces me to hesitate [in] believing that motives of personal advantage are more the subjects of his journey than the ostensible one of the interest of his prince.

A delay of five days in the dispatch of this address is the consequence of the arrival of this Vakeel, which at this period promised important and interesting intelligence.

The accounts from Jaynagar relate that the Rajah had at length consented to receive Mohammad Husein Khan, the Shah's Vakeel at that city. Zaman Shah's letter was delivered at that interview and the Rajah excused himself for not granting it earlier in consequence of indisposition.

No later news from Cabul has reached me than the 26th of July.

No. 78—Fight among Sindhia's officers for the control of Delhi fort. George Thomas's adventures. Ambaji confers with Perron.

FROM—CAPT. P. BRADSHAW,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 29th September 1798.

The veneration belonging to the residence or the immediate presence of Royalty, which it was thought would have prevented absolute commission of military operations against the fort of Shah Jahanabad, and have held in suspense the possession of it until a termination of the present controversy at Poona should give a supreme government to the dominions of Sindhia, appears to have had no influence in protracting the assault of it by the troops of Mr. Perron in the name of Dowlat Row.

On the 21st instant the reinforcement stated in my address to your Lordship of this 13th, joined the battalions of Mr. Perron before stationed at Delhi, and on the 24th the greater part of this united force, now 6 regular corps, made a movement to attack the Marhatta Sardars of the Bais' party in the neighbourhood of the city. The latter, too weak to trust the fortune of an encounter, retreated with precipitation on the approach of the former, who upon this returned to Delhi and immediately invested the Killah. In point of strength the fort is of no consideration, and cannot hold out longer than a regard for the safety of the royal occupants shall restrain the besiegers from attack, and it is moreover unprovided with stores requisite for sustaining a siege of any duration. If the distress which this contest will occasion to his Majesty shall not soon operate to determine the fate of the fort, your Lordship will in all probability be addressed by the King, soliciting relief and protection, which, I learn, is his intention.

On the occasion Madhorao Phalke with two battalions belonging to the widow of Samroo have 'paid (*sic*, joined) the troops of Mr. Perron.

Mr. George Thomas, formerly in the service of Begam Samroo and married to her adopted daughter, but now an independent and powerful freebooter, ranges the country lying between Delhi and Jaynagar as far as the borders of the desert. Lately returned from a successful expedition into the territory of the Rajah of Beekaner, he has laid siege to Gokulgarh, the principal place in the district of Rewari, to which he is invited by the distracted condition of Sindhia's authority. His force, hitherto no more than two battalions and one thousand horse, is now said to amount to three of the latter and six of the former with twenty pieces of cannon. Jaggoo Bapoo and Lackwa Dada are desirous to engage

him on their side and write to him to join Antaji Pant and Nana Diwan, who are in the neighbourhood of Bahadurgarh. I understand his enmity to Mr. Perron is such that the usual objects of interest are scarce necessary to be offered, in order to draw him into a confederacy which promises to gratify him with an opportunity of advantageously opposing his progress.

A report that Mr. Thomas had designed to possess himself of the King's person, may have taken rise from the prosperous change in his circumstances in consequence of his expedition, and may be the cause why Mr. Perron urges hostilities against Bhow Bhaskar, who, a favorer of the cause of the Bais and countenanced by their representatives Jaggoojee and Lackwa Dada, would no doubt recur for assistance to Mr. Thomas. Mr. Thomas is an Englishman, and as I learn has but one European with him, and he of the same nation.

Ambajee had arrived from Narwar at Dholpoor on the 25th instant, where by appointment he was to meet Mr. Perron, who on the same day reached Mutra on his way to the place of conference.

Ambajee wholly denies connecting himself with the Bais' deputies or their cause, but it is not certain whether from principles of fidelity to his prince or view of self-independence.

No. 79—Perron's attitude to Lakhwa Dada. Delhi news. Secret letter of the Abdali to Mirza Akbar.

FROM—CAPT. P. BRADSHAW,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 24th September 1798.

Few changes have taken place in the circumstances of parties in this quarter since I had the honor to address Your Lordship on the 13th instant.

No obstruction has yet been interposed to resist the progress of Jaggoo Bapoo and Lackwa Dada in supplanting the authority of Dowlat Row. Ujjain has submitted to their summons on the part of the Bais without even a show of opposition, and the facility with which their commands are obeyed, as far as they have thought it prudent to spread them, foretell the little security Sindia possesses for the preservation of his authority in those parts of his dominions as yet unassailed by the insurgents. The views of these Sardars, influenced perhaps by their first success, have given birth to a measure, calculated to augment the perplexity of Dowlat

Row's situation. I am assured by the Munshee of Lakwa Dada, who has resided in the city of Farrukhabad since the confinement of his master and makes me occasional visits, that the Bais have been applied to [by their supporters] for letters addressed to Your Lordship and his Excellency the Vizeer, importing a declaration of their independency and requiring the acknowledgment of the same from both Governments.

Mr. Perron, unwilling to break with the disaffected party, has at length condescended to compliment Jaggoojee and Lackwa Dada on their escape from captivity. The prudence of his conduct may still maintain the allegiance to Dowlat Row of that part of his Hindoostany dominion which is entrusted to his control. At Dehly neither his battalions nor the Killadar have commenced any measures of open hostility against each other, and appear to aim at effecting their respective ends rather by stratagem than force.

The agent of this Residency at the Durbar of Shah Alam has informed me that His Majesty has revived his intention of bestowing the Khilat of Vizarat and *sanad* of that office on his Excellency the Vizir, of which I had the honor to advise Your Lordship on the 29th of June. Shah Nizam-ud-Deen, Subadar of Delhi, encourages this disposition in His Majesty, and offers himself to proceed in charge of the commission. He submitted to His Majesty a draft of the letter which he recommended should be addressed to Dowlat Row on this occasion, and with more than usual dispatch it was adopted, prepared, and forwarded to Poona on the 18th instant. The King is extremely desirous to confer this honor on his Excellency Saadat Ali Khan, but suspicious of Shah Nizam-ud-Deen's motives, and that the royal interests will be made a secondary consideration, resolves not to wait for the sanction of Sindia but to entrust the management of the affair, at an early day, to a confidential messenger of his own. A copy of the above draft, with an English translate, I have the honor to forward for your Lordship's satisfaction.

I have discovered that the contents of the letter from Zaman Shah, secretly conveyed to Mirza Akbar Shah by the Vakeel Meer Abdul Kareem, as mentioned in my last address, was no more than an acknowledgement of the receipt of a Quran sent last year by Mirza Akbar to Zaman Shah, and an acquiescence in general terms to a proposal of alliance by marriage from the prince, who was desirous to bestow his daughter on the King of Kabul.

Accounts from Kabul have been received as late as the 9th of August. At Delhi and Jaynagar, reports of the Shah's having made some marches on the road to Peshawar, have already acquired circulation; but I am in possession of no sufficiently authentic news on this head, to submit for your Lordship's consideration.

No. 79A—Substance of a letter addressed by Shah Alam to Dawlat Row Sindhia on the 19th September 1798 (translated from the Persian).

On a former occasion Meer Syed Ahmad, the deceased brother of Shah Nizam ud Deen, proceeded in charge of Khelats for the Vizeer and Governor General and strengthened the friendship subsisting between them and the late Sindia. Having now received the arzee and nazars of Saadat All Khan, and not yet returned any *shuqa* in acknowledgement of them, which every one knowing I execute no act of Government without your sanction, will consider as imputable to you, and the allowance for Khasah be in consequence discontinued, I have therefore determined on deputing our trusty and careful servant, Shah Nizam ud Deen, with the Khelat to Lucknow, and thereby promoting the friendly intercourse between the two Governments to confirm the grant of Khasah. Forward your permission to Shah Nizam ud Deen without delay, that he may forthwith prepare and depart with it to Lucknow.

No. 80—Internal quarrels of the Indian Powers prevent any effective combination with them against Zaman Shah. Daulat Rao Sindhia's return to Hindustan very desirable for the safety of his own dominions. Possible alliances against the Durrani invasion critically discussed.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Cawnpur, 5th October 1798.

I arrived at this station on the 30th ultimo, since when I have had several conferences with Major General Sir James Craig on those military points to which your Lordship directed my attention.

In consequence, I presume, of the letter I had the honour to deliver from your Lordship, Sir James Craig has been perfectly unreserved in his communications, and it was with much satisfaction I learnt that he has lately transmitted to your Lordship a memoir, which I have perused, containing his opinions at large on many military points of great importance. But though this memoir be comprehensive, and enters deeply into detail, yet it by no means decides the grand military question which your Lordship seems most solicitous to ascertain, namely, "the utmost limit to which our Force can be advanced, for the common purpose of a general defensive alliance, without danger to Oudh" etc. Nor do I understand that Sir James Craig has, as yet, made up his mind on this very important subject.

Your Lordship's letter of the 15th ultimo instructs me, that the principal Powers whose resistance might offer serious obstacles to Zaman Shah's

views, are the Sikhs, the Rajpoots, particularly the Rajahs of Jaynagar and Jodhpur, and the Marathas inhabiting the Dominions of Sindia ; and certainly were it practicable to unite these Powers in a defensive alliance, the Shah could have no chance of success were he so rash as to attempt an invasion of Hindostan. (But such is the distracted state of Sindia's territories, that should he either from choice or necessity, remain much longer at Poona it will, I fear, prove difficult to unite the Marathas inhabiting his dominions in our common cause of defence, as unfortunately for their and our interests their political differences seem irreconcilable.)

It would be an object gained, of the utmost importance, could we secure the resistance of the united force of the Sikhs against Zaman Shah, without engaging, on our part, to assist them with troops for their defence. But unless we consented to grant them military assistance, and I apprehend it would be deemed too hazardous to advance any part of our army so far as the Punjab, I must confess I do not see what advantage the Sikhs could promise to themselves from forming a political connection with the English. But though I am somewhat doubtful of being able to effect this part of my instructions, yet I trust your Lordship will be assured that the measure shall not fail of success from any want of energy in my exertions, for it shall be my particular study to conciliate the Sikh Chiefs, with whom I have already attempted to commence a correspondence.

I do not apprehend there will be any material difficulty in prevailing on the Rajpoot Rajahs to enter into your Lordship's views, even should Sindia remain in the Deccan. For though they certainly bear the Marathas no goodwill, and would, I believe, wish to be altogether freed from their yoke, their religious prejudices considered it is reasonable to suppose, they would rather submit to pay the tribute now imposed on them, than commit their families to the mercy of a Muhammadan conqueror, from whose army they would have every outrage to apprehend.

I have the honor of agreeing in opinion with your Lordship that the return of Sindia to Hindostan would be attended with the restoration of his power to a considerable degree of efficiency, and consequently offer the best possible means of checking the motions of the Shah. Whenever, therefore, I learn that he is advancing towards these parts, I shall immediately proceed to meet him, in order to commence negotiations for the purpose of forming a definite treaty against Zaman Shah. Should, however, any misfortune preclude the hope of the return of Sindia to Hindostan, I shall then, with your Lordship's permission, direct my principal attention towards Ambajee,—always bearing in mind, however, that part of my instructions which prohibits any interference that might involve us, either now or hereafter, in hostilities, and carefully avoiding

all engagements of a tendency either to accelerate the ruin of Sindia, or to exclude the revival of his authority.

In the event of any accident happening to Sindia, it appears probable that Ambajee would succeed to a considerable share of his powers and influence. This Chiet who has always been faithful to Sindia, is possessed of strong fortresses, has the collection of nearly a crore of rupees; and is very rich in ready money, and seems to have attached to his views Mr. Perron, who commands a large body of Regulars, constituting the only efficient force that Sindia has on this side of Hindostan. Mr. Perron appears, from his late conduct to be a man of some prudence and ability, and it is supposed has much influence with the Rajahs of Jaynagar and Jodhpur. If my intelligence on these points be correct, as I have reason to believe, it occurs to me that by your Lordship's negotiations an union might be effected between Ambajee and the Rajpoot and other Maratha tributaries, which when consolidated by a defensive alliance with our Government, would present a formidable barrier to the approach of Zaman Shah. But I simply state this opinion for your Lordship's consideration.

I hope shortly to transmit to your Lordship a particular account of the conduct, views, and forces of Mr. Perron. Sir James Craig conceives that the Frenchman would, from motives or self interest, be inclined to support that Power whose cause we might espouse. It shall be my first object to ascertain whether this opinion of Sir James Craig's be well founded.

I have the honor to enclose an account of the Begam Samroo's military force; and soon expect to have the means of giving your Lordship correct information relative to all other Europeans in the service of the native Powers on the North-Western Frontier of India.

In compliance with your Lordship's directions, I have addressed the Resident of Lucknow on the subject of establishing some regular and permanent system of obtaining correct intelligence of the designs and movements of Zaman Shah, requesting a free communication of his opinion on the most eligible means of attaining this important object and assuring him of my zealous cooperation in any plan we might ultimately adopt. Whenever I am favored with his sentiments on this subject, I shall set off hence, by dak for Fathgarh, unless he should propose a personal conference in which case I shall first go to Lucknow.

I have been given to understand that His Majesty Shah Alam is extremely desirous of my repairing without delay to Delhy, and it has also been hinted that he has some propositions to submit to your

Lordship's consideration, grounded on a supposition that the ruin of Sindia is inevitable. I am further informed that the King has hitherto deferred sending the *Khilat* of Vazirat to the Nabob Vizir with a view of employing me on the occasion. But as this *Khilat* is to be given without the consent and probably contrary to the inclination of Dawlat Row Sindia, I know not whether your Lordship would approve of my being an agent in this business, nor am I satisfied that you would wish to receive any propositions from Shah Alam. I shall not, therefore, comply with His Majesty's desire until I have been favored with your Lordship's instructions on both these points ; but I hope to receive any orders thereon soon, being anxious to arrive at Delhi, where I shall be nearer the scene of political action, and considerably advanced on my way towards Sindia, should he return to Hindostan.

No. 81—Collins assumes charge of Sindhia's Residency at Fathgarh. George Thomas's force and character.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

* Fathgarh, 11th October 1798.

I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship of my arrival at Fathgarh, yesterday morning, and of my having taken charge of the public records of this Residency from my assistant Captain Paris Bradshaw.

The enclosure which I have the honor to transmit to your Lordship, is an extract from the translate of a letter that I received about three hours since from Ambajee Rao ; the first part contains information that cannot, I conceive, but be pleasing to your Lordship, as it presents some prospect of a termination to those disturbances that have so long prevailed in Sindia's Dominions, the continuance of which might, at this critical juncture, prove extremely prejudicial to the general interest of our allies and eventually counteract your Lordship's views of forming a defensive alliance against Zaman Shah.

It not being in my power to comply with that part of Ambajee's request which relates to an exemption of duties, I have honored a promise of recommending the subject to your Lordship's favourable consideration, and being desirous, on public grounds, to conciliate this Chief in the first stage of our intercourse, it will be highly gratifying to me, should your Lordship condescend to grant his request. The passport required by Ambajee has been sent with a complimentary letter on my part, inviting a continuance of his correspondence.

I have the honor to transmit to your Lordship an account of the Europeans in the service of the Native Powers on the North-West Frontier ; amongst these, Mr. Perron excepted, George Thomas is the only person of any military reputation with the natives. This man has been described to me, by gentlemen who know him personally, to be brave, enterprising, and of good natural talents ; at present he is enoamped at Bahadurgarh, a place within twelve kos of Delhy, and commands about 3000 matchlock men, formed into battalions, and 1000 good cavalry ; what his immediate views may be, cannot well be ascertained, but probably it is his intention to engage with that party which can best afford to purchase his services. I ascribe the reputation of this military adventurer, and he certainly stands high in the opinion of the natives (otherwise I should not have so particularly noticed him to your Lordship), solely to the present disunion amongst the Marathas ; and no doubt, on the return of Sindia to Hindostan, he must immediately shrink into insignificance. No. 3 which I have the honor to forward to your Lordship, contains an article of intelligence obtained by my agent at Delhy from a merchant of that city, who received the same direct from Cabul, from his brother.

No. 82- Ambaji in full power and likely to crush the party of the Bais.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVENOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 15th October 1798.

- I have the honor to transmit translates of extracts from my country intelligence, [which] I send with a view principally of confirming the authenticity of such information as your Lordship may have already received of the arrival of the Shah at Peshawar.

The intelligence from Muttra contains strong confirmation of that passage in Ambajee's letter to me, in which he announces the high powers delegated to him by Sindia. From every information which has been in my power to collect, and I have sought it through various channels,—it seems very probable that Ambajee will in a short time, totally subdue or render insignificant, the party of the Bais. Should this event happen, some sort of regular Government must be restored in the Dominions of Sindia, with which your Lordship might possibly venture to open a negotiation for the purpose of forming a defensive alliance against Zaman Shah, and this negotiation also might be commenced, I humbly conceive, without waiting the return of Sindia to Hindostan.

The Rajah of Jaynagar has lately, at the suggestion it is supposed of Mr. Perron, offered the assistance of five hundred of his cavalry to support the administration of Ambajee, which circumstance tends to evince the influence he possesses. In fact this Chief is certainly powerful, and might I think, be rendered extremely useful in promoting your Lordship's political views, and that without affording the least cause for just complaint to our ally Dawlat Rao Sindia.

No. 83—News of Zaman Shah's Court (intelligence sent from Fathgarh.)

16th October 1798.

Zaman Shah has bestowed a Khilat of Vizirat on Rahmat Ali Khan who is known by the title of Wafadar Khan. This is the person who on the arrival of the Shah last year at Lahor occasioned the levy of contribution and was the cause of other oppressive acts against the people of that city. The Shah encouraging Ashraf-ul-wazra Sher Mohammad Khan, bids him apprehend nothing from the gift of the Khelat of Vizarat to Wafadar Khan, as he being his Vizeer for Cabul etc., he had nominated the latter Vizeer for the affairs of Hindoostan. That on the date of this letter Zaman Shah had entered his tents, and it was rumoured he would pursue his march straight to Peshawar, and that not even stopping there he would immediately cross the Attok in pursuance of his designs in Hindoostan.

No. 84—Measures of Shah Alam's Court to get news of the Abdali. Extract of a letter from Delhi relative to Zaman Shah.

7th October 1798.

You are already informed of the departure of Zaman Shah from Cabul on the 30th of August.

I have now intelligence from the family at Cabul of Golam Mohammad Khan Elchy, that the Shah has marched for Hindoostan with an army composed of the various tribes of Ballooches, Tartars, Qizzelbashes, Afghans etc. and intends making none but indispensable delays until he reaches it. The harkara who brought this letter informs me he came as far as Peshawar with this army. The Nabobs Wafadar Khan, Sher Mohammad Khan, Ameen ul Mulk Bahadur and other Omrahsg accompany the King. After the receipt of this letter, a qasid who is come in 6 days from Amritsar, gives intelligence of Zaman Shah having arrived at Peshawar.

Mulla Mohommed Hussein, Daroga of the harkaras, and Naib of Meer Hooteck Khan, Daroga of the Daftar-Khana, has in obedience to the commands of the Shah, dispatched Meer Sadik Ali Kulloo and four other harkaras with a hoondee for the purpose of procuring intelligence of this quarter. Mulla Mohommed enjoins on [all] to procure for Meer Sadik Ali some trusty people acquainted with the Punjab country in order that with each of the King's messengers and regularly send forward with early news Qaim Bakht Jamadar with ten more messengers will wait on me at Dehly, by whom I am directed to act as in the case of Meer Sadik.

Meer Sadik has not yet reached me, but I expect him shortly, when I shall again address you if any particular worth communicating occurs.

Haji Bahaud-din, whom Mirza Akbar Shah sent with other [attar], etc. to Zaman Shah, is now on his return from Kabul after having successfully executed his commission. It is reported that this person, on a promise of a *peshkash* to a large amount, has procured from Zaman Shah a rich *khilat* and other marks of favor for prince Akbar.

No. 85—The Bais get possession of Ujjain and Shahjahanpur. News of Zaman Shah and his wazir received via Jaipur.

FROM—COL. J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

October 1798.

Since the 15th instant when I had the honor of addressing your Lordship, no intelligence of the least importance relating to Zaman Shah has reached this station except such as is contained in the enclosed translates, the original of which I this instant received from Jaynagar and Amritsar.

The news of today from Ujjain is altogether unfavourable to our ally Sindia. It states that the party of the Bais has obtained complete mastery in that city, as also in Shahjahanpoor, a town of some note situated within sixteen *kos* of Ujjain.

News from Jainagar, dated 12th October 1798. Received at Poona on 7th November 1798.

Meer Sadiq Ali, intelligencer sent by Zaman Shah, arrived with 20 or 30 harkaras at Jaynagar and intends proceeding to Delhi. He brings letters from the Shah and Sher Mohammad Khan to Mirza Shafaat Ali,

inviting him to court, and says a Khilat is prepared for him and will be subsequently dispatched. Elchis bringing Khilats for the Rajahs of Jaynagar and Bikaner have reached Meer Sadiq gives it out that Zaman Shah will enter Hindoostan but two dastas of his army will move by the route of Bahawalpoor, and contents of the letters to the Rajahs of Jaynagar and Beekaner are to the following effect, that as I am resolved on the expedition into Hindoostan, if you, who are the supporters of the throne, will join me, say so, if not, let me also know your determination.

Received at Poona, 7th November 1798.

For several days past rumours of the approach of Zaman Shah have been very prevalent in consequence of intelligence from Peshawar that he had left Cabul on the 3rd of September. The people in this neighbourhood therefore, under considerable apprehensions are preparing to fly for safety in different directions, notwithstanding the inundated state of the country from the late rains. Wafadar Khan whose real name is Rahmat-ullah Khan, is intrusted with the direction of public affairs, and Sher Mohammad Khan and Ameenul Mulk take no concern in the state occurrences. It is by no means certain that this change will be agreeable to the Durrannies, but the effects of it will be known after the arrival of the army at Peshawar.

No. 86—Wellesley abandons the idea of an alliance with Sindhia against Zaman Shah. Collins on the alert for news and developments; his hope of expelling the French officers from Sindhia's army one day.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 4th November 1798.

I have the honor to acknowledge my receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 26th ultimo.

The reasons which have induced your Lordship to relinquish for the present all designs of entering into a formal defensive alliance with Dawlat Row Sindia against Zaman Shah, appear to me incontrovertible and certainly the same arguments apply still more forcibly against forming any engagements with Ambajee Rao.

It is with real satisfaction I can assure your Lordship that in no one instance have I ever given the least grounds for suspicion to the Sikh chiefs, Rajpoots Rajahs or Ambajee Rao that your Lordship at any time

entertained views towards a defensive alliance against the Shah ; on the contrary my correspondence with these Sardars has been hitherto purely complimentary, and it was always my firm determination to confine myself to the same line until I was fully authorized by your Lordship to advance further.

I have the honor to agree in opinion with your Lordship that no reliance can be placed on the cordial support of Mr. Perron to any cause which the Company might favor, nor indeed do I think it would be advisable to confide in the good faith of any Frenchman under any circumstances. Should it however at some future period be deemed expedient by Government to form a closer connection with Dawlat Rao Sindia, it might not possibly be difficult to prevail on him to discharge every Frenchman from his service, for whenever that Chief returns to his own dominions he will feel that the friendship of the English Government is so essential to the restoration of his authority that there is scarce any sacrifice, I imagine, which he would not make to obtain it.

Ever since my arrival at this station I have held myself in constant readiness to move at the shortest notice, and I shall continue in the same state of preparation that there may be no unnecessary delay in the execution of any orders your Lordship may be pleased to honor me with, on the return of Sindia to Hindoostan. In the meantime, I shall refrain from all intercourse with his Majesty Shah Alam, compliments excepted, and particularly adhere to your Lordship's directions respecting the nature of my future correspondence with Ambajee, the Rajpoot Rajahs, and Sikh Chiefs.

I have the honour to offer my sincere acknowledgments to your Lordship for your condescension in complying with my request, in favor of Ambajee, for a remission of the Gaya [pilgrim] duties.

No. 87—News of Zaman Shah's crossing the Indus at Attock.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 10th November 1798,

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that the Vakeel of the Nabob of Bahawalpoor gives his master the following information from the camp of Zaman Shah at Peshawar. (A bridge is thrown across the Attock, and it is expected the Shah's army will pass over on the 26th of October.)

There is no date to this intelligence from the Vakeel, the substance of it, however, is confirmed by letters from merchants residing at Amritsar, dated the 15th October, which further state that the Mahajans of this city, as well as those of Lahore, are preparing to send off their effects into the Hills.

Ambajee has lately invited the Sikh chiefs, who possess those parts of the Punjab which border on the Maratha territories, to send their Vakeels to him at Muttra; with a view, it is supposed, of endeavouring to form some defensive alliance against Zaman Shah.

The intelligence respecting the Shah's design of passing the Attock being important, and in my opinion authentic, I shall communicate the same to Sir James Craig by this day's dak.

No. 88—News of Zaman Shah at Peshawar on 14th October.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 13th November 1798.

I have the honor to submit, for your Lordship's information the following intelligence which I have this instant received from two *qasids* in my employ who left Zaman Shah's camp at Peshawar on the 14th of October.

"The Shah has with him about a lac of cavalry and infantry of various tribes—several principal Sardars occupy the country between Peshawar and the Attock. A bridge has been thrown across the river. The Shah has 35 pieces of cannon with his army and is arranging, for field service, the ordnances found in the fort at Peshawar, from whence he has also drawn about one thousand *shutar-nals*. These are now stationed near his Peshkhanah at Chamkeanee, which is nearly 10 [two] cos on this side of Peshawar. It was reported that his army would move towards Hindoostan on the 21st or 22nd of October. The Vakeel of Shah Moorad of Bokhara and 500 Uzbek horse accompany Zaman Shah.

I have the honor to enclose a translate of intelligence from Delhy. The person who communicated it, is a man of ability as well as of some experience in public affairs, having formerly held a situation of considerable responsibility in which he conducted himself with great propriety.

No. 88A Intelligence obtained from the Royal Zenana at Delhi by a confidential private agent of Colonel Collins.

Sent from Fathgarh, 14th November 1798.

Hajee Baha-ud-Deen, agent of the heir apparent Mirza Akbar Shah, who went with presents from his master to Cabul and had them accepted through the medium of Ameen-ul-Mulk, contracted by that means a friendship with him, and had in consequence several private interviews with Zaman Shah. Having acquitted himself of his commission he received a Khelat, had his audience of leave, and set out on his return which may now be soon expected. His intimacy with Ameen-ul-Mulk enabled him, while at Cabul, to write to his master that it was Zaman Shah's determination to prosecute his expedition into Hindoostan, and that his plan was, after he should have settled the Punjab, to sit down some time at Lahore, and detach a part of his army towards Sirhind and Delhi, that when he should have made himself master of the whole of the country to the Chambal, he would divide it, taking for himself as far as Karnal, and bestowing the remainder on Shah Alam. It was further his design to leave a Sardar on his part to manage the government of the latter in Hindoostan.

No. 89 News of Zaman Shah assembling troops at Peshawar. Alarm at Amritsar. Sikhs disunited. Bala Rao's victory near Bhopal.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 16th November 1798.

I have the honor to lay before your Lordship the following particulars of intelligence which I this day received from Amritsar.

Zaman Shah was at Peshawar on the 24th of October; troops from all quarters were assembling there. He was displeased with his former Vizeer Shah Muhamed Khan, and Wafadar Khan now governs his councils. His treasury being in a low condition, the revenues of Peshawar were received in merchandise and specie and distributed to the troops in the same manner. Some of the Shah's Sardars advise him to march into Hindostan by the route of Bahawalpoor, as from that country he might obtain money and would have only one river to cross. The

Shah himself however declares he will prosecute his designs on Hindostan by the road of Lahore. The bridge on the Attock is finished and the troops are advanced to within 15 cos of that river, but have not as yet begun to cross.

The inhabitants of Amritsar had on the 31st of October sent off their effects to a place of safety in the hills, and are only waiting for intelligence of the Shah's having crossed the Attock to betake themselves to flight.

Conceiving that there can no longer be any doubt of Zaman Shah's intention to invade Hindostan this year, and deeming the present a proper occasion for attempting to draw the attention of the Marhattas towards their common enemy, I have with this view addressed a letter to Ambajee Rao, copies of which in English and Persian I have the honor to transmit for your Lordship's perusal. [No. 90 below.]

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that news from Muttra dated the 11th instant, states that Bala Row, brother to Ambajee, had engaged the Afghans of Bhopal and gained a complete victory over them. It is said that on both sides one thousand men were slain and that Bala Rao had taken 5 pieces of cannon, 100 horses and a considerable quantity of baggage from these Afghans.

From the information of a very intelligent person in my employ I have every reason to believe, that the Sikh chiefs are too much disunited amongst themselves to form any well concerted plan for opposing the invasion of their country by Zaman Shah, and it appears to me probable that on the approach of his forces the Sikhs will fly to their hills and confine themselves to depredatory attacks on the army of the Shah.

No. 90—Collins informs Ambaji of Zaman Shah's threatened invasion.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—AMBAJI RAO.

Fathgarh, 16th November 1798.

Bearing always in mind the ties of amity which unite the Company and Maharajah Dowlat Rao Sindiah, it affords me real satisfaction when I reflect that the administration of his dominions in Hindostan (during his absence in the Deccan) is entrusted to a chief of your well known experience, firmness, and fidelity. At this critical juncture the same principle of friendly regard for the interests of the Maharajah induces me to detail the following particulars of intelligence that I have lately received

from the Camp of Zaman Shah, the authenticity of which you may implicitly rely on.

14th October, Zaman Shah is encamped about fifteen cos from the Attock; a bridge has been thrown over that river. He has with him about a lac of cavalry and infantry and his army is increasing daily. The Shah is very strong in artillery. The Vakeel of Shah Morad of Bokhara and five hundred Uzbek horse accompany his army. It is said that the whole of the troops will pass the Attock about the latter end of October. It is the avowed intention of Zaman Shah to fix himself at Lahore for the purpose of conquering the Punjab. He also designs to detach a considerable force to Sirhind, and Dehly with a view of subduing all the country to the north of the Chambal, and means to support his usurpation by stationing a large part of his army in Hindoostan, under the command of a principal Sardar, who is constantly to reside there.

I give you this information from a thorough conviction that you will with your usual prudence and courage, speedily adopt the most vigorous measures for opposing, with effect, the unjust designs of the Shah, which are evidently directed against the dominions of Maharajah Dowlat Rao Sindia in Hindostan.

Though it by no means appears from any intelligence we have obtained, that the Shah entertains any hostile views against the territories of the Company, or the dominions of the Nabob Vizeer, yet the English Government, with its wonted wisdom is fully determined to repel with energy, and punish with severity, any insult that may be offered to either Sarcar by the temerity of Zaman Shah, and accordingly our armies are held in readiness to move and act, on the shortest notice, as future circumstances may require.

No. 91—Zaman Shah advancing towards Lahore with a large army.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 22nd November 1798.

I have the honor to give your Lordship the following intelligence, which is this instant received, of the movement of a division of Zaman Shah's army.

A *qasid* in the employ of a merchant residing at Amritsar, and who crossed the Attock on his return from Peshawar, about the 30th of

October, states that on the same day, 10,000 Durranees also passed the river.

This detachment had been directed to advance as far as Hassan Abdal, there to wait the arrival of the Shah with the army; and the cosid says he left the Durranees when they were advanced about 4 or 5 kos on their march.

From every information I have been able to procure of the disposition, strength and views of the chiefs inhabiting the country between the Attock and Lahore, I have reason to believe that the main body of the army of Zaman Shah will meet with little opposition in its march to the capital of the Punjab, and it is probable he will advance as far as Pind Dadan Khan without meeting an enemy. This last place, which has not been inserted in Rennell's map, is situated exactly half way between the Attock and Lahore.

My intelligence further states that the lower class of people have already fled from Amritsar, but that the Sikh Sardars will not, as yet, permit the principal merchants to leave the place, though they promise to protect their Mahajans in their retreat to the hills, whenever the Shah has passed the Attock with his army.

No. 92—Further news of Zaman Shah's advance to Lahore and the repercussion of the news in Indian towns. British preparations.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 1st December 1798.

I have the honor to enclose a copy and translate (No. 1) of Ambajee's reply to my letter of the 16th instant [Nov.], a transcript of which your Lordship will have received with my address of the same date.

Your Lordship will perceive that Ambajee with true Marhatta finesse has assumed as real an agreement which never existed, it being certain that the late Governor General did not at any time acquiesce in the proposals made through Kamgar Khan for a junction of our forces with those of Dowlat Rao Sindia.

It does not appear that Ambajee's letter requires any answer unless your Lordship should deem it proper to disavow every intention of allowing the English army to cooperate with the Marhatta troops in

defence of Sindia's territory, in which case I hope for your Lordship's instructions.

My letter of the 22nd instant [Nov.] has apprised your Lordship that a division of Zaman Shah's army actually crossed the Attock river on the 30th of October.

This intelligence has been since confirmed through various channels and there are flying many reports both of Delhy and Jaynagar, of the Shah having also passed the Attock, of the consequent ravaging of the Punjab as far as the Jhelam, and other circumstances tending to contrast the prowess of the Durrances with the timidity of the Sikhs, which seem undeserving of credit.

I am inclined however to think that the Shah's troops have certainly occasioned great disturbances in the Punjab, the intelligence from thence not being in any degree so regular in its arrival here as it was formerly, and my belief on this head is strengthened by the opinion of a very sensible person residing in Farrukabad who has for some time past been disappointed of expected letters from Pind Dadan Khan where his family resides.

My private agent at Delhy also expressed apprehensions for the safety of several cosids sent by me some time ago to the camp of Zaman Shah ; he likewise writes that the inhabitants of Delhy are greatly alarmed by news lately received there of the Shah's near hostile approach.

However, should the above accounts prove authentic, yet still I shall be far from thinking that the Shah is able to maintain himself in Hindoostan this year.

But, as it is not impossible that he may advance beyond the Punjab in the hope of enriching his army with plunder, his treasury being, as is reported, in a very low state, I consider it my duty to submit to your Lordship such information as I have been able to collect relative to the strength and disposition of the forces of the principal chiefs on the north-west frontier of India, in order that your Lordship may at one view be enabled to form a just idea of the opposition Zaman Shah is likely to encounter before he can approach the dominions of his Excellency the Nabob Vizier.

It is probable, I may require your Lordship's indulgence towards some mistakes that may be found in the statement No. 2, which I herewith do myself the honor to transmit, though I can with great truth assure your Lordship that no assiduity has been wanting on my part to render the information contained therein as correct as possible.

Should it be found expedient to assemble a grand army on the frontier of his Excellency the Vizeer, as present appearances at Cawnpoor indicate,

I shall hope to be honored with your Lordship's commands, should it in that event be judged proper for me to move from this station.

P.S.—Just as I was about to close this letter I received intelligence from Delhi, a translate of which (No. 3) I do myself the honor to forward to your Lordship.

This news was sent express from Amritsar by the house of a merchant whom I have attached to my interest and on whose veracity I can rely.

Unluckily your *dak* has been already dispatched to Lucknow, on which account I fear this letter will not reach your Lordship so soon as it otherwise would.

I shall however send it off express by the way of Cawnpoor, and at the same time apprise Sir James Craig of the substance of the information I have received.

No. 93—Collins expects Zaman Shah to halt in the Panjab in consideration of the British military precautions. Anti-Maratha feeling of the Delhi Emperor and his Court.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 6th December 1798.

I do myself the honor to transmit herewith a translate of intelligence No. 1, this moment received from Delhi, the substance of which has been confirmed to me by accounts from Amritsar.

Admitting the whole of this news to be authentic, the conclusion to be drawn therefrom is, in my humble opinion, that Zaman Shah does not consider his present force sufficient for the immediate prosecution of his designs in Hindostan.

I am in consequence inclined to believe that the Shah will not leave Lahore so soon as is generally supposed, merely however from the circumstance of the Pesh-khimah being advanced a few kos towards Delhi.

It also appears to me probable that the march of our troops towards Anoopshahar of which the Shah must soon be informed, will be a further inducement for him to confine his operations to the Punjab until he be reinforced by the troops which Wafadar Khan is now collecting.

For Zaman Shah cannot but be aware that were he to advance near to our forces, it would in the event of his defeat be extremely difficult if not impracticable for his army to effect a retreat across the Attock, unless indeed the Shah's forces were sufficiently numerous to admit of his leaving a strong detachment of his best soldiers in the Punjab. But this does not by any means appear to be the case from the intelligence which we have hitherto received.

This private agent at Dehly writes that Shah Alam and his son Mirza Akbar are exceedingly rejoiced at the news of Zaman Shah's approach, and have declared their intention of going as far as Panipat to meet him, nay further if no [one] prevented them.

This information may be true, it being certain that Shah Alam suffers great pecuniary distress, which must naturally induce a wish on his part to be freed from the power of the Mahrattas, whose sordid policy has not only disgusted the Royal House of Timur, but has also excited the indignation of a great many of Musalmans in Hindoostan, who certainly feel for the degrading state to which this imperial family is unhappily reduced.

I have the honor to forward to your Lordship translates Nos. 2 and 3 of arzees addressed to me by Syed Razee Khan, my public agent at the Darbar of his Majesty Shah Alam.

My reply to Syed Razee Khan was to the following effect, that for the present he should remain at Dehly, taking particular care to pay all possible respect and attention to the King whilst he continued in the City, but on no account to accompany Shah Alam in the event of his going out to meet Zaman Shah.

I likewise prohibited Syed Razee Khan from all correspondence with Zaman Shah, his Vakeels or chiefs on any subject whatever, and have forbade his entering into any pecuniary engagements with the Dehly merchants on account of the King's jewels.

With respect to the wish expressed by Shah Alam of my being with him at this conjuncture, I directed my agent to assure His Majesty on this subject that my compliance depended solely on your Lordship's pleasure.

No. 94—Steps taken by Ambaji Ingle in order to meet the menace of Zaman Shah's invasion.

**FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,
TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.**

Fathgarh, 10th December 1798.

I have the honor to forward to your Lordship copy and translate No. 1 of a letter to my address from Ambajee which I received this morning.

The Persian news-paper from Mutra of the 6th instant confirms Ambajee's information relative to the desire expressed by the Sikhs for a junction of forces with the Marathas.

Ambajee has reported publicly that the English general has been appointed to act in conjunction with the Mahratta army, by which artful procedure he has rendered the march of English troops towards Anoopshahar of great advantage to the interests of Dawlat Row Sindia.

For, this misrepresentation not only tends to rouse the courage of his own dependants and soldiers, but also may eventually induce Lakhwa and other Sardars of the Bais' party to join him with their troops.

I have the honor to enclose a copy (No. 2) of my reply to Ambajee's letter of the 7th instant.

Your Lordship will, I hope, approve of my having evaded to give any direct answer to this part of his letter, which relates to the proposition for a junction of the forces of the two States.

In fact, as I could afford no hopes that your Lordship would comply with Ambajee's instances on this subject, I thought it most advisable to postpone any determinate reply which might have discouraged him from pursuing his present spirited measures.

No. 95 Shah Alam's attitude to Zaman Shah explained. Ambaji's efforts at alliance with the English and mutual defence.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 9th December 1798.

I have the honor to enclose translate of *Shukā* from His Majesty Shah Alam to your Lordship's address, also a copy and translate (Nos. 2, 3) of an *arzi* which I this day received from Syed Reza Khan, my public agent at Delhy.

Your Lordship will perceive, that Shah Alam thinks he shall no longer have any thing to hope or fear from the power of the Marathas, whenever Zaman Shah be advanced as far as Delhy, and hence probably proceeds His Majesty's anxiety to be informed of the measures which your

Lordship intends to adopt on the near approach of the Shah to the territories of the Nabob Vizir.

It being my opinion that if Shaha Alam could certainly ascertain it was your Lordship's design to preserve a strict neutrality in any contest for dominions between the Marathas and Zaman Shah, he would in that event, take the earliest opportunity of throwing himself on the protection of the Musalman invader from whom, as well an account of religion as of family connexion, he might reasonably expect a favourable reception.

My reply to the *arzi* of Syed Reza Khan merely contained an assurance that His Majesty's friendly intentions towards our Government should be communicated to your Lordship with the least possible delay.

I have the honor to transmit to your Lordship a translate of Ambajee's reply to my requisition for parwanas, which was preferred at the official instance of Sir James Craig, with the design of facilitating the march of the Company's troops by the route of the Maratha districts.

I received the necessary parwana of letters in six days from the date of my application to Ambajee at Mura, which dispatch (the characteristic procrastination of the Marathas considered) can only be ascribed to the present apprehensions of this Chief.

Indeed I have it from very good authority, that the circumstance of the Shah's Pesh-khima being advanced a few *cos* towards Delhy, had, at first, alarmed both Ambajee and Mr. Perron in so great a degree, as to excite suspicion amongst their dependants that they had it in contemplation to retire across the Chambal with their forces.

But Ambajee's more serious reflection, the assurance he had received of your Lordship's determination to oppose Zaman Shah with vigor, and the recent movement of the Company's troops towards Anoopshahar, which last circumstance he regards as a certain indication of your Lordship's intentions,—have altogether raised the spirit of this Chief in an extraordinary manner.

For he no longer meditates flight, but, on the contrary, is, with wise policy, pursuing every means to conciliate Lackwa Dada, Mr. George Thomas, Begam Samroo and other Maratha tributaries, with a view of prevailing on these Sardars to unite their forces with his or Mr. Perron's for the purpose of resisting the ambitious and dangerous designs of Zaman Shah on Hindostan.

No. 96—Zaman Shah's armed strength. Sikh negotiations with him. Collins disbelieves in the chance of an Abdali invasion that year.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 12th December 1798.

I have the honor to forward a kherita to your address from Shah Nizam-ud-Din, Subadar of Delhi.

It appears by my intelligence from Jaynagar that Zaman Shah has lately sent a letter by this route to his Highness Nizam Ali Khan.

The *qasid* who had charge of this letter gave a most exaggerated account of the Shah's army, stating the same at 200,000 cavalry, in which were included 40,000 horse under the command of the son of Shah Moorad of Balkh.

He also asserts it to be the intention of the Shah to remain five years in Hindostan ; but this cosid being in the employ of a Sardar of Zaman Shah's army (named Sarbuland Khan) who probably dictated the above particulars, little attention is due to such information.

One part of the *qasid*'s news however has been confirmed by letters from Amritsar, and by no means seems improbable, so far as it relates to the political views of Zaman Shah.

This intelligence is to the following effect : " That three Sikh sardars had on repairing to the Shah's presence been honored with Khelats, that they were treated with distinction, promised the management of their own districts, and instructed to invite other Sikh chiefs to follow their example of submission ".

It is the general prevailing opinion, as well at Dehly as at other places adjacent, that Zaman Shah will shortly make a rapid movement towards the Maratha frontier, in which opinion, however, I cannot concur.

On the contrary, I am strongly inclined to believe partly from the reasons assigned in my address to your Lordship of the 6th instant, that the Shah will never venture to prosecute his designs on Hindostan until he has subdued or conciliated the principal sardars of the Sikhs, and to accomplish either would necessarily detain him a considerable time in the Punjab.

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that Major General Sir James Craig with the troops from Cawnpoor arrived here this day.

I have not yet had the honor of seeing the General, but as I am told he intends to halt at this station for a day or two, I purpose paying my respects to him tomorrow morning.

No. 97—News of Zaman Shah. Collins wants to join the commander-in-chief, Sir James Craig at Anupshahar.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 13th December 1798.

I have the honor to enclose two articles of intelligence this instant received from Delhy.

If Zaman Shah's advanced guard have really met with a serious check, the Sikhs may be encouraged to make a stouter resistance than has been expected from them.

At my interview with Sir James Craig this morning, a sense of duty induced me to declare my perfect readiness to accompany him to Anupshahar, provided he considered my presence there would in any degree tend to forward the public service.

Sir James Craig was of opinion that my being with the army would be proper on many accounts.

If therefore your Lordship's reply to my public letter of the 28th ultimo should not in the interim prohibit my leaving this station, it is my intention to march with the army which moves from hence on the 15th of this month.

Being however extremely solicitous to regulate my conduct at all times in strict conformity to your Lordship's intentions, I feel some reluctance in acting from my own judgment, though I trust my accompanying Major General James Craig on the present occasion will meet with your Lordship's entire approbation.

No. 98—News of the Sikh Sardars' preparations against Zaman Shah.

FROM—Col. JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 15th December 1798.

The difficulty of obtaining correct intelligence from the camp of Zaman Shah increases daily; of fourteen qasids sent by me towards

the Attock, not one has yet returned. But unfortunately certain accounts have been received of the plunder and murder of two of these poor men by the Sikhs, who are as active as the troops of the Shah in intercepting all letters from this quarter. Rumours prevail that the Durranees are in possession of Amritsar, to which I give little credit as they have not been confirmed to me through those channels of intelligence that I can rely on. The following particulars are liable to the same objection, but as they wear an appearance of probability, I venture to submit them to Your Lordship.

My news-writer at Delhi writes me that Ranjeet Singh of Gujerat has assembled about ten or twelve thousand horse. That he and many other Sikh Sardars were attempting to hem in the army of the invader, and that grain was already selling in Zaman Shah's camp at 3 seers the rupee.

As the residence of Your Lordship's Political Agent in the camp would in some respects subject him to the authority of the commanding officer, I deemed it proper to inform Sir James Craig it was my intention either to precede or follow the army at the distance of one day's march, and in compliance with his wishes on this subject I shall remain at this station till to-morrow morning.

If in leaving Fathgarh I have unhappily committed an error, I can only hope for Your Lordship's indulgence on account of the public motives which influenced my conduct on the occasion.

I have the pleasure to acquaint Your Lordship of the march of the troops with Sir John Craig, who moved from hence this morning towards Anup-shahar.

No. 99—The difficulties of Zaman Shah if he invaded Hindustan. Shah Alam's attitude. The Sikhs will assemble at Amritsar.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp, 6 kos from Fathgarh, 16th December 1798.

I have this instant received an arzee from Syed Razee Khan my public agent at Delhy, enclosing the copy of a shuqa addressed by Zaman Shah to Mirza Akbar, the son and Minister of his Majesty Shah Alam.

The translate which I herewith do myself the honor to transmit to Your Lordship, contains the substance of every material passage in those letters.

Though there can be as little doubt of the hostile design of Zaman Shah on Hindostan, as of the disposition of the royal family at Dehly to promote the same, yet still I continue of opinion that he will not attempt to extend his conquests beyond the Punjab for a considerable period of time.

For, independent of the low state of the Shah's treasury, in which fact all parties are agreed, I have lately learned from good authority that the families of all the principal Sardars of the army are now with the camp and hence I am led to conclude that Zaman Shah's first object will be the establishment of his authority in the Punjab, in order to secure an asylum for the women and children of his chiefs during their absence in Hindostan.

But though this mode of procedure might probably be the most prudent the Shah could pursue, yet even this plan would meet with considerable obstacles, it being highly improbable, as well on account of religious prejudices as of opposite political interests, that he should succeed in his present attempt to conciliate the Sikhs, who cannot but be aware that their total extirpation from the Punjab, as a nation, would soon follow any decided advantage gained by Zaman Shah in Hindostan.

Admitting therefore for these reasons, conciliation to be impracticable, the only alternative left the Shah, if the acquisition of dominion, not plunder, be his object, is the subjugation of the Sikhs, and which could not, I apprehend be completely effected in less than one, or possibly two years, considering, in a military point of view, the natural advantages of the Punjab.

It appears from various concurring accounts that the Sikhs are assembling in great force at Amritsar, near to which place there is a tank consecrated to religious purposes, and it is the opinion of many intelligent impartial men that Zaman Shah will be obstinately opposed whenever his army advance to that city.

I have the honor to apprise your Lordship of the general belief that Gholam Mahomed Khan and Bhamboo Khan, Rohilla chiefs, have left their retreat in the hill for the purpose of repairing to the camp of Zaman Shah.

No. 100—Strength of Zaman Shah's army. Sikhs assembled at Amritsar, cut off a convoy of the Shah.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp near Raya, 18th December 1798.

I have the honor to enclose a translate of an arzee received last night from Syed Rezee Khan, my public agent at Dehly.

Your Lordship will readily comprehend the motives that induced the remarks of Shah Alam on the French nation, which though extremely just cannot, I conceive, be altogether ascribed to the friendship his Majesty has uniformly professed for the English.

The intelligence communicated in the latter part of Syed Rezee Khan's letter relative to the recent defeat of the Durranis, is certainly not credited by him, for in a private letter to my Moonshee he expresses his disbelief thereof, and requests permission to remove his family and effects from Dehly.

I have the honor to apprise your Lordship that two of my *qasids*, who left Lahore on the 5th instant, are returned from the Punjab and give the following information of the state of affairs in that country.

The Sikhs were assembled in force two kos on this side of Amritsar. The advanced guard of Zaman Shah's army had plundered two villages between Lahore and Amritsar. A caravan consisting of merchants, with considerable property and servants belonging to the Shah, had been cut off by the Sikhs at a place distant nearly fifteen kos from the rear of Zaman Shah's army.

The *qasids* also state it to be the general belief in the camp of the Durranees, that the Shah would immediately pursue his designs on Hindostan, were he not restrained from an apprehension that his troops might be greatly harassed on their march by the Sikhs, who though unequal, in his opinion, to a conflict in the open field, could nevertheless distress his army with considerable effect by depredatory attacks.

The *qasids* further relate that the Sikhs have formed the resolution of laying waste their country fifty kos all round Lahore.

I was very particular in my inquiries respecting the number and description of the Shah's forces.

They are reported to consist of 40,000 Durranees, 10,000 slaves, all of whom are horsemen and deemed stout soldiers, beside 1,00,000 irregular horse and foot, who have joined the camp merely from the hope of partaking in the plunder of Hindostan.

It appears that the Shah has 22 pieces of cannon, 500 shootarnals, and 50,000 camels for the purpose of conveying the baggage and military stores of his army.

No. 101—Action of Patiala and other Sikh chiefs. Delhi Emperor receives letter from Zaman Shah's harem.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp near Dundwara, 21st December 1798.

I have this day received letters from Sahib Sing, Rajah of Patiala, and other Sikh Sardars, translates and copies of which (No. 1) I herewith do myself the honor to forward to your Lordship.

Your Lordship will perceive that Sahib Sing conceives it to be the intention of the English Government to unite their forces with the Sikhs for the purpose of opposing the progress of Zaman Shah.

The mistake originated from the misrepresentation of Ambajee Rao, who has publicly and repeatedly declared to different Vakeels, that the English army was advancing in order to form a junction with the Mahratta troops, and when this was effected that the forces of the two Sarkars were to march towards the Punjab.

I have the honor to enclose a copy (No. 2) of my reply to Sahib Sing of Patiala, and which contains the substance of my answers to those other Sikh Sardars who tendered their assistance.

I am informed by Syed Rezee Khan that Zaman Shah has a news-writer at Dehly who transmits to his camp information of everything which passes in the city, and that he lately delivered an *arzee* to Shah Alam written from Lahore by Koraish Sultan Begam.

This lady, who is the daughter of the late Timur Shah, and niece to the present King of Dehly, informs her uncle Shah Alam, that she shall soon see him, it being the determination of Zaman Shah to advance towards Hindostan without delay.

No. 102—How the British troops can co-operate with Ambaji's for common defence. News of Zaman Shah at Lahore.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp near Bilram [in Eta], 23rd December 1798.

I have the honor to acknowledge my receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 12th instant.

Your Lordship's approval of the terms of my address to Ambajee Rao, afforded me pleasure proportionate to the solicitude I ever feel to merit the approbation of my superiors.

I have the honor to coincide with your Lordship in thinking there is little ground to expect that Ambajee will derive any cordial or efficient assistance, either from the Sikhs, or Rajpoots ; and I also entirely concur in your Lordship's opinion respecting the ability of the chief to oppose singly any effectual resistance to Zaman Shah, should that Prince advance to Dehly.

In compliance with Your Lordship's directions I have submitted to Sir James Craig (as a question for his future consideration) whether it would be expedient to permit the troops of Ambajee to occupy a position near the English Camp, under the limitation prescribed in the 6th paragraph of your Lordship's letter of the 12th instant.

I have the honor to forward to your Lordship copies in English and Persian, of a letter which I this day addressed to Ambajee Rao.

Recent intelligence from Amritsar states that Zaman Shah is at present endeavoring to conciliate the Zamindars who possess lands adjacent to Lahore, and that he treats with much kindness and liberality all Sikhs of any sort of note who can be prevailed on to attend at his Durbar for the purpose of acknowledging his authority.

I beg to offer my grateful thanks for your Lordship's indulgence in allowing me a choice of residence.

As I by no means think that my repairing to the the Mahratta army could be attended with any public advantage, I shall for the present continue to reside in the vicinity of Sir James Craig's camp.

No. 103—Zaman Shah's Indian recruits. Sindhia's agent Bala Rao Ingle recovers Ujjain from the Bais.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp near Anupshahar, 30th December 1798.

I have the honor to enclose the translate of a letter to my address from Mahrajah Dawlat Rao Sindia.

As I am satisfied that an interview with Ambajee would be productive of much useless importunity on his part on the subject of a junction of the forces of the two States, it is not my intention to repair to the Maratha camp, unless your Lordship should judge it proper for me to comply with the instances of Sindea.

I have the honor to submit to your Lordship the following information which I last night received from Syed Reza Khan my public agent at Delhi.

"At present Shah Alam understands that Zaman Shah has called to his court Nabob Ghaziuddeen Khan, and as there is a mortal hatred between His Majesty and the Nabob, this intelligence fills the mind of the King with anxiety.

In relation to Zaman Shah what obtains currency in this city, is, that he has resolved on advancing to Sarhind. Several persons of Tooran and Punjab (to the amount of about five hundred) inhabitants of this city, intend proceeding to Lahore in a few days in quest of service."

Intelligence from Ujjain states that on the near approach of Bala Rao (Ambajee's brother) to that city, Jaggoo Bapoo fled from thence; leaving behind him the greatest part of his baggage and stores.

In consequence of the flight of this Chief, Ujjain was immediately taken possession of by Bala Rao in the name of Dawlat Rao Sindia.

I am sorry to inform your Lordship, that, at present, there is no prospect of any reconciliation between Lackwa Dada and Ambajee, the former Chief regarding the advances and friendly professions of the latter as alike dangerous and deceitful.

No. 104.—Sindhia's friendly letter delivered by Bhagwant Rao to the new Governor General.

FROM—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Received 27th September 1798.

Bhagwant Row has long been in attendance on your Government on my part in the capacity of Vakeel and enjoys my entire confidence. In consideration therefore of our mutual friendship and attachment and the unity of interest by which we are connected, I address these lines to your Lordship to assure you that I shall feel extremely happy in every degree

of kindness and attention [which] your Lordship, from a regard to the situation he holds under my Government, may be pleased to shew him.

All other particulars relative to the stability and firmness of the system of harmony and union subsisting between us, which is durable as the Alexandrian Wall, will be made known to your Lordship by the verbal communications of Bhagwant Row.

The dues of friendship require that considering me ever anxious for news of your Lordship's health, you should constantly rejoice me by communicating it.

No. 105.—Daulat Rao assures Wellesley that Zaman Shah was not a real danger and that Tipu Sultan would be checked by the English and the Marathas in concert.

FROM—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Received 8th October 1793.

I have had the pleasure to receive your Lordship's most kind and friendly letter (recapitulating that written 8th July) and from its contents as well as from the personal communications of Col. Palmer, have been fully informed of its meaning and of your Lordship's sentiments.—My Lord! I am convinced that Zaman Shah has not planned such an expedition from so great a distance without being persuaded and enticed to it by some Power in these regions. This indeed is sufficiently evident from his letters and addresses to that quarter (meaning Hindostan, Oudh, and Bengal). This suspicion will probably have occurred to your Lordship also—at all events what does it signify? There is no room for any sort of apprehension. It is a well known proverb—'Two hearts united may break down mountains and disperse multitudes'. If in the opinion of the wise and intelligent, the union of two minds taken indifferently from the mass of mankind possesses such force, it is evident that where two powerful States, such as the Company's and mine, with such great military equipments as they possess, with troops not to be numbered and such immense trains of artillery, unite and co-operate, they surely (under Divine favor) are equal to the most complete and satisfactory accomplishment of any undertaking to which they may turn their attention, God willing. When I return to Hindostan and shall have had a meeting with Col. Collins and be informed of the sentiments entrusted to his verbal communication, such measures as by mutual concert and advice may appear most proper to

repel the invader, shall be adopted—All the Powers to the north and west, certain individuals excepted who may have leagued with him, will undoubtedly exert themselves to the utmost of their power for the protection of their respective territories. In particular, the Sikhs when they find themselves supported and encouraged from this quarter, will be still more ready and resolved to resist his progress by arms.

With regard to the evil designs of Tipoo Naik, to remedy which with the united concert of the three States is both necessary and resolved on, but which object, your Lordship has written with the pen of friendship, will be obstructed by my continuance in the Dekkan, the case my Lord is this, that on the former occasion when the three States united their exertions to exterminate Tipoo and he, urged by a strong spirit of animosity, stood forth to resist them by arms, the late respected Maharajah proceeded by repeated marches towards the Dekkan and on his arrival at the banks of the Narbada, dreading the approach of his victorious army, Tipoo Naik addressed a letter to him to this effect, that the flame of war was then raging with violence, that he was using his utmost exertions to meet the occasion, and cared not to sacrifice his life in the cause, but that as he (the Maharajah) has now proceeded to the Dekkan if he would favor him with his sentiments and advice upon the occasion, he would act accordingly. The Maharaja wrote for answer, that it was his best policy to shew a disposition to peace and submit, otherwise it would be incumbent upon himself (the Maharajah) to march to that quarter. On finding that such was the Maharajah's disposition and seeing the immense accumulation of the troops and the exertions of the three States he made submission and opened a negotiation for peace. In like manner upon the present occasion also, by the favor of God a large body of troops is at hand and ready to act.

With respect to the apprehension your Lordship entertains from being informed of existing differences, the fact is, that certain narrow minded persons who planned and fomented mutual strife and contention, have felt the effects of resentment and been driven away, since which those differences even have come into a train of accommodation; there is no room whatever for alarm and apprehension. The interests of the Peshwa and the Nawab Nizam Ali Khan have always remained one and the same, and this your Lordship has doubtless been apprized of by well informed persons. At the same time for your Lordship's information I will summarily state, that these two powerful States have always been closely connected by the ties of friendship, no estrangement whatever subsists between them. When the Nabob is engaged in a contest, such aid and support as is prompted by union and attachment is afforded him on the part of the Peshwa, and on the other hand when the Peshwa has any design to accomplish the Nabob fulfils the obligations of friendship and alliance,

and tho' as it often happens between States, any little interruption should present itself in consequence of the non-performance of some promise or engagement, still (God forbid it) it does not amount to downright enmity, and even what verbal contest may occur is by reflection and deliberation and by mutual concession soon adjusted and fostered by cordiality. The friendship and union of the States flourish as before ; let your Lordship's mind be in every respect at ease on this head. Your Lordship in writing all these points, as you have done, in the spirit of regard, has in truth only obeyed the dictates of attachment, and such is the conduct suitable to the principles of union. I am at all times and on all occasions most anxious to act up to the wishes of the Peshwa. God willing, the remaining differences between us will be in a short time fully and satisfactorily accommodated, and under the permission of the Peshwa and the advice and recommendation of sincere and steady friends, I shall set out for Hindostan.

For further particulars respecting these measures and negotiations I refer your Lordship to Col. Palmer's letters.

No. 106.—Sindhia recommends a Maratha pilgrim of rank to British protection.

FROM—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA,

TO—THE BRITISH RESIDENT AT LUCKNOW.

Received, Calcutta, 25th October 1798.

(Tai Bai, the mother of Apajee Row, has arrived at Benares from Poona, accompanied by a retinue of 100 *miana* and *dooli* palanquins, one thousand horse, two thousand attendants, and one hundred camels carrying burden, with a view of performing the pilgrimage of Allahabad, Benares, and Gya &c, and after purchasing cloth and other articles of the Benares manufacture to the value of 10,000 Rs. and completing the object of her journey, will set out to Poona. I have to request therefore that you will issue directions to the officers of Government stationed at Benares &c to send some sepoys and one of their chuprasees to accompany Tai Bai &c, that they may meet with no impediment on account of duties at any of the places.)

You will also give positive orders to the officers of Government at these places, Allahabad &c., to afford them every protection and to send some of their people to escort them in safety to Brahmavart, commonly called Bithoor.

No. 107—Sindhia begs the Nizam to send an envoy for negotiating a mutual alliance.

FROM—DAULAT RAO SINDEIA,

TO—THE NIZAM.

(No date). Received at Calcutta, 13th October 1798.

Prior to this, I had the honour to address a letter to your Highness respecting the present situation of affairs in this quarter and intimating the anxiety of mind at not having been honored with any letters from your Highness, thro' Sheshadry Pandit. Your Highness will have received it and have been made acquainted with its contents. The family discussions which circumstances have occasioned, are in a course of adjustment and, God willing, will be accommodated; should any obstacles yet remain, upon a principle of union, it will be incumbent upon you Highness to assist in removing it; accordingly personal discussions upon this head, have already taken place with Sheshadry Pandit, who will communicate them in full to your Highness. In conformity thereto, let your Highness be pleased to issue orders for assembling a body of your troops, so that on the receipt of his letters measures may be taken agreeably to what he has written. By the favor of God the interests of both Sarcars have long been united, and when occasion required, the system of mutual assistance and support has been observed. It is proper that at present also the dictates of union and attachment be obeyed and observed in the same manner. These sentiments are written in the spirit of mutual friendship. For the rest, be content and happiness be ever at your command.

No. 108—The Nizam sends his envoy Sheshadri Pandit to Sindhia to negotiate.

Copy of a letter from his Highness the Nizam to Dāwlat Row Sindia (no date).

I have been gratified by the receipt of your letter (recapitulating verbatim the contents of the letter). It is most true that the obligations of union and friendship have been from of old maintained between the two States in such a manner as not to admit of any difference or separation of interests, and as the dues of attachment and regard have at all times and upon all occasions been uniformly respected and observed by this illustrious family, we also at all times make it an object to observe the

same ancient system without variation. Accordingly we have repeatedly written upon the family dissensions in that quarter which have appeared for some time past, and which have not yet been accommodated, to Seshadry Pundit—and no doubt you will have been convinced from what we have written, in how great a degree we are disposed to maintain the obligations of union. The answer to several points has been entrusted to the verbal communication of Sheshadry Pundit, from whose representations it will be made known to you. Believing us constantly solicitous for your welfare—gratify us by communicating accounts of it.

No. 109—Sindhia congratulates the Governor General on Nelson's victory at Abukir (the Nile).

FROM—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Received 27th December 1798.

I have had the pleasure to receive your Lordship's letter notifying the arrival of the French in Egypt and the destruction of their ships by the English fleet under admiral Sir Horatio Nelson in the Port of Abukir &c. (*vide* that written 4th November 1798). The good news of the victory which it contained, since there is no distinction of interest between the two Sarkars, gave me real satisfaction. May the Almighty prosper to the king of Great Britain, to your Lordship and all friends, this unexpected success, and invariably grant to your Lordship, who is characterized for purity of design, piety, and good faith, victory over all your enemies. In the event of any further intelligence of success over the French being received, I trust that your Lordship deeming it calculated to afford me satisfaction, will rejoice me by communicating it.

My friend, I have lately appointed Rajah Amabjee Row on my part to conduct the affairs of my Government in Hindostan, and he consequently has already entered upon the duties of his office: Colonel Collins who has been nominated to reside with me on the part of your Lordship's Government, is arrived at Farrukabad. It is now particularly advisable that the Colonel should join Rajah Ambajee Row, that they may advise and consult upon the best method of adjusting and putting a stop to the disturbance prevalent in the westward as well as the arrangement of other points which depend upon personal communication and discussion, and that they may jointly carry into execution whatever shall appear to them most likely to promote the advantage and prosperity of the two Sarkars.

No. 110—Wellesley urges Sindhia to return to Hindustan if he wishes to oppose the Abdali threat in concert with the English.

FROM—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL,

TO—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

Written 22nd January 1799.

I am favored with your letter in reply to mine (*vide* that received 27th December 1798), with regard to your request that I will give instructions to Colonel Collins to join Rajah Ambajee for the purpose of concerting measures to stop the progress of disturbances in the westward.

My friend, I long ago apprized you of the probability of these disturbances, and signified my readiness to open a negotiation with the view of concerting a plan for the common defence of your country and that of his Excellency the Vizier, as soon as you should return from Poona, where your continuance not only endangered the security of your dominions in the north of Hindostan, but in a great measure prevented the Company's allies from fulfilling their defensive engagement against the late aggression of Tipoo Sultan. Colonel Palmer by my directions has repeatedly pressed this important subject on your attention. But your residence at Poona having been protracted to this time, to my concern and to the prejudice of your own interests and of those of the Company and the allies, the plan which I proposed has been suspended, and I have been under the necessity of employing the Company's troops solely for the defence of the Nabob Vizir's Dominions. Whenever you shall return to assist in the protection of your own dominions, you may rely on my cordial cooperation, and you may be assured that I will fulfil the friendly promises which I have made to you through Colonel Palmer. But you cannot expect that I should take charge of the defence of your territories whilst you remain at a distance from them, and whilst you apply the greater part of your military force to objects inconsistent with the prosperity of the Company and of its allies; Colonel Collins therefore cannot at present join Rajah Ambajee. The Colonel has already informed Rajah Ambajee of my sentiments upon this subject.

No. 111—Wellesley unfolds his defensive policy against Zaman Shah—the western frontier of Oudh to be guarded by Sindhia.

Secret General Letter to Court of Directors, London.

Calcutta, 3rd October 1798.

* * * * *

22. With this view the Governor-General has endeavoured to recall Dawlat Rao Sindia to the defence of his own dominions, which properly defended would form a strong barrier to the frontier of Oude.

23. The correspondence with Colonel Palmer will inform your Honourable Committee that the return of Sindia to Hindostan appears to be a probable event, and that, accompanied as it is now likely to be by an adjustment of the differences between Sindia and his family, it will enable him to place his dominions in a respectable posture of defence. The present disturbed condition of that country would undoubtedly facilitate the approach of Zaman Shah to the frontier of Oude.

24. The Governor General has directed the Resident at the Court of Sindia to enter into defensive engagements with that Chieftain upon his return to Hindostan, under such limitations and conditions as may secure the effectual co-operation of the Maratha army with the least possible diversion of the British force from the exclusive protection of the frontier of Oude. His Lordship has further directed the Resident with Sindia to endeavour to provide the earliest resistance to the progress of the Shah at the greatest practicable distance from the frontier of Oude, by encouraging the Chiefs of the Rajpoots and of the Sikhs to oppose the first approach of the invading army.

30th October 1798.

46. The return of Sindia to Hindostan would afford us additional means of strengthening ourselves against Zaman Shah; but our latest advices from Poona give us reason to apprehend that the period of his return is still very uncertain.

20th November 1798.

33. The re-establishment of Nana will in all probability be shortly followed by the departure of Sindia for Hindostan. Immediately on the return of that Chieftain to his own territories, we shall take the necessary steps for forming in concert with him, such defensive arrangements against Zaman Shah as we trust, will add to the security of your western frontier against any attempts from that Prince.

34. Our latest advices regarding Zaman Shah still leave us in a state of uncertainty with respect to his intention of advancing into Hindostan, altho' they appear to us on the whole to indicate a probability of his making the attempt this season. We shall not relax any of the precautionary measures which we had adopted in the expectation of his approach, until all apprehension of it shall have subsided.

24th December 1798.

31. From that letter you will observe that Sindia's continuance at Poona, the dissensions and disaffection which prevail amongst his commanders,

and the unsettled and precarious state of his authority in Hindostan, have prevented our taking any further steps, for carrying the intended arrangements into effect.)

Under these circumstances we have judged it expedient to determine, that in the event of Zaman Shah's approach to the frontier of our ally the Vizir, our military operations shall be confined to a system of defence, and we have resolved that our army shall in no case pass the limits of his Excellency's Dominions, unless such a forward movement shall be deemed by the Commanding Officer necessary for the protection of the frontier either of Oude, or of our own Dominions.

No. 112—Zaman Shah trying to win over the Sikhs at Amritsar. His extreme lack of funds.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp near Anup-shahar, 2nd January 1799.

I have the honour to forward a Shuka to your Lordship's address, from his Majesty Shah Alam, together with a copy and translate of Ambajee's reply to my letter of the 23rd ultimo, a transcript of which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship, with my public address of the same date.

My private agent at Dehly writes, that Wafadar Khan lately sent his Dewan to Amritsar with *khilats* and other presents, for the purpose of conciliating the Sikh Chiefs who are assembled there, in the hope of inducing them to acknowledge the authority of Zaman Shah.

My intelligence also states and it has been confirmed by Syed Reza Khan, that this Dewan whose name is Atma Ram has hitherto been unsuccessful in his negotiations; the Sikh Sardars being totally averse from placing any confidence in the promises made to them on the part of the Shah.

If the above information be true, and my private agent has, generally, been correct in his intelligence, I think it likely that Zaman Shah will soon feel it expedient to recross the Attock, from his inability to raise money for the payment of his troops.

No. 112A—Ambaji Ingle explains Daulat Rao's delay in the Deccan and reaffirms his friendliness to Collins.

FROM—RAJAH AMBAJEE RAO,

TO—Lt.-Colonel J. COLLINS, Resident with Daulat Rao Sindhia.

January 1799.

Your approach to Anopshahar with the army in order to oppose Zaman Shah is very proper, and I derive much support from it. You had written, which I understand, that it is five months since the Governor General out of friendship, intimated through Colonel Palmer, to Dawlat Rao Sindia, that it was the fixed intention of Zaman Shah to enter Hindostan, and that as yet Maharaja Sindia had acted contrary to it. My friend, by reason of disturbances, family feuds, the disarrangement of affairs, and enmity of his Sirdars, Dawlat Rao Sindia was without alternative; otherwise he would have followed the advice of Colonel Palmer, for since the time of the late Maharaja no difference has occurred, nor shall occur, between both States. At present, through the favour of God the domestic concerns are on the point of adjustment, and the seditious who midway at Ujjain had committed disorders, have met with the reward of their deeds. Maharaja is likewise about to march into Hindostan, and I with Colonel Perron, are in readiness with the troops we have, and will conform to whatever you shall be pleased to write.

No. 113—Zaman Shah retires from Lahore towards Peshawar.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp 10th January 1799.

I have the honor to forward translates (No. 1) of various letters lately received, all of which tend to confirm the information communicated in my public address to your Lordship of the 4th instant, relative to the retreat of Zaman Shah towards Peshawar.

It has been generally supposed that scarcity of provision, want of forage, and the low state of his treasury, were the principal causes which impelled the Shah to retire from Lahore.

But in a paragraph of the *Delhy Akhbar* of the 7th current, this event is very differently accounted for by Tansook Roy (the Dewan of Mr. Perron), who, properly instructed no doubt by his master, ascribes the retreat [to his fear] of the French.

No. 114—Causes of Zaman Shah's retreat from Lahore.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Dibai, 15th January 1799.

I have the honour to forward herewith a *Shuqa* to your Lordship's address from his Majesty Shah Alam, and likewise to enclose a translate of intelligence from Dehly, which tends to confirm my former information relative to the retreat of Zaman Shah from Lahore.

Though the Shah's intention of marching towards Peshawar, without delay, be generally credited, yet there are various opinions concerning the motives which induced this resolution.

For, some accounts ascribe the retreat of the Durranees to disturbances recently excited in Balkh by Mahmood, the Shah's brother, whilst others assert that want of money and provision obliged the army to retire from Lahore.

If Zaman Shah were actually compelled by distress to relinquish his conquests in the Punjab, I should conceive it unlikely that he would return there for a considerable period of time. But if the Shah left that country merely on account of existing commotions in his own dominions, he may, whenever these are settled, immediately resume his designs on Hindostan.

It appears, therefore, in some degree requisite to ascertain the real causes of the retreat of the Shah, and this information I am now endeavouring to obtain for your Lordship from the most respectable authorities.

No. 115—News of Zaman Shah's retreat confirmed.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Atrauli, 21st January 1799.

I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information copies and translates of letters obtained by my private agent at Delhy, from which it would appear that Zaman Shah has relinquished every intention of prosecuting his views on Hindostan during this season.

Two *qasids* in my employ who are just now returned from the Punjab, affirm in the most positive terms that they left the Shah's army on the 4th instant, at which time, it was advanced five *cos* beyond the Ravee on its march to Peshawar; and intelligence precisely to the same effect has been recently communicated to Ambajee Rao by several Sikh chiefs.

As the above information corresponds with that which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship in my address of the 15th instant, and the same having been since confirmed to me by advices from Amritsar, I can no longer entertain any doubt of the retreat of Zaman Shah towards his own dominions.

I have the honour to apprise Your Lordship of my intention to return immediately to Fathgarh, there to wait your Lordship's future commands.

No. 116—The Governor General approves of the conduct and policy of Col. Collins during the Abdali scare.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—LIEUT.-COL. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.

Madras, 22nd January 1799.

I have received your letters of the dates annexed—December 18th, 21st, 23rd, 27th and 30th. I approve the terms of your letter to Sahib Singh and to the other Sikh Chiefs in reply to their overtures, as communicated to me in your letter of the 21st ultimo.

It is not expedient at present to open any negotiation with the Sikh Chiefs on the grounds of mutual co-operation against Zaman Shah. In the event of Dawlat Rao Sindia's early return to Hindostan, such a measure may become advisable. I desire therefore that you will cultivate a friendly intercourse with Rai Sing, and with the other principal Chiefs of the Sikhs, and that you will invite them to communicate to you, after having consulted together on the subject, either in writing or through some agent properly accredited, a definite project of a general confederacy and plan of operations against Zaman Shah. You will transmit to me whatever propositions you shall receive from the Sikhs on this subject, and you will inform them that you have requested this communication with them for the express purpose of submitting the result to my consideration.

Your letter of the 23rd December to Ambajee Rao was extremely well judged, and as the tenor of it corresponds with a similar communication, which passed between Colonel Palmer and Dawlat Rao Sindia nearly at the same time, this Chief can no longer flatter himself with the hope which he appears to have entertained, that I might be induced to protect his Dominions, during his absence at Poona.

I approve your determination to decline the proposal of Dawlat Rao Sindia, for your proceeding to the camp of Ambajee Rao.

SECTION 5

Lord Wellesley crushes Tipu Sultan (May 1799)—Repercussion of this triumph felt in the Maratha States.—Lakṣhwa Dada's revolt and the war of the Bais continue.

No. 117—Shah Nizam-ud-din, the new Governor of Delhi on behalf of Sindhia,
invites Collins to Delhi for a consultation on mutual defence.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 30th January 1799.

I have the honor to enclose a copy and translate of a *shuqa* to my address, from his Majesty Shah Alam, and at the same time beg leave to assure your Lordship that the distinction conferred on me therein was neither solicited nor desired on my part.

Indeed, it is not long since I declined the same titles when they were tendered for my acceptance through the medium of Shah Nizam-ud-Deen, the Governor of Delhi.

I have the honour to apprise your Lordship of my having this day received advices from the Punjab which state that Zaman Shah had actually repassed the Jhilam.

Shah Nizam-ud-Deen seems desirous of my visiting Delhi, and as he has some claim to my attention on account of the confidential situation he now holds by Sindia's appointment, I am induced to submit the following passage of his letter to Your Lordship's consideration.

“Your repairing, my friend, to the presence of the King of Hindostan for the purpose of paying your compliments to His Majesty and for offering your congratulations on the retreat of Zaman Shah, is very advisable and proper. This faqir has hinted the above from the friendship and goodwill which he bears you. I take it for granted you will proceed hither expeditiously, and that after seeing the King you will honor me with an interview when I shall submit to your perusal a letter from Dawlat Rao Sindia in which he directs the measures to be pursued, for opposing Zaman Shah in conjunction with the English forces.”

No. 118—Poona news ; Sindhia's success over the Bais' partisans. Lakhwa Dada's victories in Malwa. Sindhia's officers insulted by his unpaid soldiery.

FROM—W. PALMER, RESIDENT WITH THE PESHWA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 11th February 1799.

Since my last address a material alteration has been produced in the state of the disaffected party of Sindhia's family and Government, by the death of Muzaffar Khan, the author of the insurrection, and by the return of Apa Chitnavis to the Durbar, which seems to preclude the readmission of Balu Tatya to the ministry, on whom the Ladies relied for Sindhia's performance of the engagements which he might enter into with them for an accommodation.

These circumstances have enabled Sindhia's deputies to detach several of the principal officers and a considerable part of the troops from the interests of the Ladies, in consequence of which they have moved to a greater distance, and it is supposed will retire to Hindustan and join the insurgents under Jagu Bapu and Lakwa Dada. A strong detachment from Sindhia's army is ordered to march in pursuit of them.

Poona, 12th February 1799.

Apa Chitnavis is making every exertion in his power to raise money for the purpose of enabling Sindhia to proceed to Hindustan, and with considerable success. But the sincerity of that Chief's professed intention to march can be only ascertained when the whole sum required is collected.

Lakwa Dada has defeated and dispersed two detachments sent against him by Ambaji,—one commanded by his son and the other by his brother. These disasters have caused much consternation at Sindhia's Durbar, and I hope will accelerate his departure.

Poona, 18th February 1799.

(I have been informed that the insolence and menaces of the troops have induced Apa Chitnavis to reside constantly in the city, though he continues to conduct Sindhia's affairs. That the three commanders of regular infantry declare their troops shall not march until their arrears are discharged and as much pay advanced as will subsist them until their arrival at Mutra, although they had consented to march on receiving two months pay of their arrears. These men, one of whom has been a French sergeant, and the other two the sons of low European adventurers by native women, treat Sindhia's authority with the utmost contempt and his person with the greatest disrespect, and thus the instrument of

his violence and rapine has recoiled upon himself. . . . He answered [to my agent Ganpat Rai] a little peevishly that it was useless to importune him [to march away from Poona to Hindustan] so frequently, that he was as desirous of going, as I was that he should be gone, but I knew his situation perfectly, that it was impossible for him to move until he obtained the money to satisfy his troops, with which the Peshwa had engaged to supply him.

No. 119—A British detachment about to march from Oudh to Madras, through Bundelkhand, Berar and the Nizam's Dominions, for the Mysore War.

FROM—VICE-PRESIDENT, CALCUTTA COUNCIL,

TO—LIEUT.-COL. JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT.

Calcutta, 8th February 1799.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honorable the Vice President in Council to acquaint you that at the desire of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, it is intended to send a Detachment consisting of about 4 or 5,000 Native Infantry with some artillery from the Vizier's territories, to join the Army of Fort Saint George.

It is proposed with a view to expedition and to render the march as little fatiguing as possible to the troops, that the Detachment shall take a direct route from Kalpi through Bundelcand, Berar and Hyderabad.

The Vice President in Council desires that you will communicate the wish of the Right Honorable the Governor General to march the troops by the above mentioned route to Ali Bahadur and to the Maratha Officer in charge of Kalpi and the adjacent country.

You will at the same time express to them the Vice President's conviction that from the intimate connection which subsists between the respective states, they will readily acquiesce in the Governor General's wish, and that they will depute a respectable person to attend the Commanding Officer of the Detachment through the limits of their respective territories, and to assist in providing supplies for the troops for which payment will be regularly made.

You will be hereafter apprized of the period when the Detachment may be expected to commence its march.

You will also give to the Maratha Officer at Kalpi and to Ali Bahadur the most positive assurances that the greatest care will be taken that the inhabitants of the countries through which the troops may march, shall not experience any molestation.

If the route of the troops should be through any part of Sindhia's territories, you will of course make the necessary application to his manager in Hindustan.

Mr. Colebrooke has been desired to apply to the Rajah of Bērar to facilitate the progress of the troops through his territories.

No. 120—The Resident writes to the northern officers of the Marathas to facilitate the southward march of the British detachment.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—GEORGE HILARO BARLOW, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Fathgarh, 20th February 1799.

I have the honor to acknowledge my receipt of your letter of the 8th instant.

In conformity with the orders of the Honorable Vice-President in Council, I have apprized Ambajee Rao, Sindhia's Manager in Hindustan, Ali Bahadur and Bala [Ganga] Dher., the Officer Commanding at Kalpi, of the intention of the Right Honorable the Governor General to march a Detachment to Fort St. George, by the route specified in your letter.

At the same time I have informed those Chiefs that, in consideration of the intimate connection which subsists between our Government and the Maratha States, it is expected they will depute a confidential person to attend the Commanding Officer of the Detachment, through the limits of their respective districts in order to assist in providing the necessary supplies.

I have likewise given them the most positive assurances that the inhabitants of the countries through which our troops may march shall not experience the least molestation, but on the contrary, that they will receive regular payment for all provisions, and other articles, which may be required for the use of the Detachment.

The very friendly assurances I have recently received both from Ambajee Rao and Ali Bahadur, relative to the seizure of Vizir Ali's person, strongly impress me with a belief that they are perfectly well disposed towards our Government. I can therefore entertain no doubt but that the present requisition of the Right Honorable the Governor General will be readily complied with by the officers of the Maratha State.

No. 121—The Governor General explains to Sindhia the causes of his going to war with Tipu Sultan.

**FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,
TO—DAULAT RAO SINDHIA.**

25th February 1799.

You are already apprized of the serious difference which has taken place between the Honourable Company and their allies, and Tipu Sultan, in consequence of the latter's unprovoked violation of the Treaty of Seringapatam. I am concerned to add, that the conduct of the Sultan has at length compelled them upon principles of self-defence to have recourse to arms. Being desirous of explaining to the friends and connections of the Company, the grounds of this unavoidable determination, I have deemed it advisable to draw up a formal declaration setting forth the conduct of Tipu Sultan, and the nature of the various measures which have been adopted to effect an amicable accommodation of the difference which the Sultan's ambition and insatiable revenge have produced between him and the allies. And I have transmitted a copy of that declaration to the Resident at Poona for your perusal.

Influenced by no motives of ambition, anxious to maintain the relations of amity and concord with all the Powers around them, and secure the internal peace and tranquillity of their own dominions by a strict observance of the obligations of Treaty and the rights of nations, the Company and their allies have strictly adhered to these principles throughout their intercourse with Tipu Sultan, and with the most patient forbearance have continued to adopt every conciliatory means of accommodation under circumstances, that would have justified an immediate appeal to arms ; but these efforts have proved fruitless, and they are at length the most unwillingly compelled to this issue, as the only means now left to secure to them the future peaceable possession of their territory, their happiness, and their honour.

This will fully appear from the record of facts contained in the declaration above alluded to, and while it affords a testimony to the world of the moderation of the views of the Honourable Company and their disposition to acknowledge the just rights of others, it will evince their determination to secure their own against all the attempts of ambition and the machinations of revenge.

No. 122—Reassuring news of Zaman Shah's distress and the doings of the Sikh chiefs. Lakhwa Dada's strength again grows.

**FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.**

Fathgarh, 18th February 1799.

I have the honour to acknowledge my receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 22nd ultimo.

In my last address, No. 26, I had the honour to apprise your Lordship of Zaman Shah's having repassed the Jhilm, and my last advices from Punjab, mention that his army is actually arrived at Peshawar.

Though it certainly appears probable, from the result of various inquiries, that the retreat of Zaman Shah was somewhat accelerated by the intelligence which he had received of existing disturbances in Herat, yet I consider this event as having only afforded him an honourable pretence for retiring from Lahore, it being my opinion that the Shah could not have maintained his army much longer in the Punjab.

Indeed it is well known that the Durranes previous to their retreat from thence were in such great distress for money as to be reduced to the necessity of selling their apparel in order to procure provisions and two cossids in my employ who resided in their camp for the space of nineteen days, were eye-witnesses of this fact.

Nevertheless, it has been confidently asserted by Wafadar Khan the Shah's Vizir, and the assertion is even credited by some of the Sikh Chiefs, that as soon as Zaman Shah has chastised his brother Mahmood, the author of the insurrection in Herat, he will immediately resume his hostile design on Hindostan.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the merchants etc. of Amritsar and Lahore, are returned to their respective habitations, the Punjab being at present in a state of tranquillity.

Ever since my arrival at this station I have, in conformity with your Lordship's former instructions, exerted every endeavour to conciliate the Sikh sardars with a view of obtaining their confidence, and I have reason to believe that I shall in future be able to preserve a friendly intercourse with the principal chiefs of that nation.

Indeed, I now consider myself on so good a footing with some individuals who possess considerable influence in the Sikh Councils, that should Your Lordship at any time deem it expedient to have regular *daks* at Lahore, Amritsar, and Patiala, I have little doubt of establishing them with the free consent and under the protection of the chiefs who command at those places.

The expense of these establishments including pay to three intelligent Moonshies would not, I imagine, altogether exceed seven hundred Sicca rupees per month.

Should not Sindhia speedily avail himself of your Lordship's salutary admonitions, his ruin seems inevitable, his possessions in this quarter being at present in a most distracted state, nor do I see any reasonable ground to hope that tranquillity will be restored therein until the return of that Chieftain to Hindostan.

Lackwa Dada has assembled about twenty thousand irregular horse and foot, with which force he plunders the Maharajah's districts with impunity, and Jaggoo Bapoo, being reinforced, is again advancing towards Ujjain with an intention of dislodging Bapoojee Sindia from thence.

No. 123—Collins gives details about the strength and distribution of Daulat Rao Sindhia's forces in Hindustan and information about the selfishness, disloyalty and disunion of his agents in North India. He unfolds a plan for the British luring away Sindhia's northern agents and discontented feudatories in the event of a war between Sindhia and the Company.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 4th March 1799.

I am directed by the Honourable the Vice-President in Council at Fort William to lose no time in transmitting to your Lordship the most accurate information I can obtain respecting the factions which at present prevail in Sindia's army, and with a view to eventual hostilities between the English and that Chieftain, to give my opinion how far any advantage to the British interest might be derived therefrom.

With the same view I am further instructed by the Honourable the Vice-President to state to your Lordship, whether it would be practicable to form a connection with the Rajpoots or other Chiefs tributary to Sindia, which might be likely to promote the success of any operations that may be eventually undertaken against his possessions in Hindostan.

In my address of the 28th of November 1798 I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship a statement of the troops commanded by Ambajee Rao and Mr. Perron, which in fact, constitute the only efficient military force in Hindostan subject to Sindia's authority, and I now beg leave to give your Lordship a concerted account of the present disposition of those troops as well as of Sindia's pecuniary resources, in order that your Lordship may be enabled to form a correct judgment of his ability to support a war against the British Government.

Sindhia possesses in the subahs of Khandesh, Malwa, Agra, Delhy and Ajmere, an annual revenue of three crores of rupees, but from this sum must be deducted eighty lacks which Ambajee Rao collects, a *jaidad* of twenty seven lacs to Mr. Perron, and another *jaidad* lately granted to Mr. Filoze, for the payment of his Brigades, amounting to about twenty five lacs of rupees.

From every information I have been able to obtain, it appears that of the revenues collected by Ambajee about twenty-two lacs only are

paid into Sindia's Treasury annually, the residue being accounted for in the pay of troops, repairs of forts and other charges, which though for the most part highly exorbitant, Sindia has not, of late, been able to control.

From the above statement it would seem that Sindia receives nearly two crores annually, out of which sum he has only to pay the irregular cavalry now with him in the Deccan, charges of collection, and the expenses of his household.

But it is reasonable to suppose that the existing disturbances, which have long prevailed in all his provinces, must have occasioned great defalcations in the revenues ; and indeed it clearly appears from Colonel Palmer's public correspondence that this Chief is at present greatly distressed for money.

The Corps commanded by Mr. Perron are employed as follows :—

Four battalions besieging Agra, which fortress is in the possession of Visram Bhow, the brother of Balooa Tatia.

Two battalions at Mutra under Colonel Sutherland. Two battalions in Malwa opposing Lackwa Dada and Jaggoo Bapoo. Two battalions under Major Pedron blockading Aligarh, a fort adjacent to Koil, and which is commanded by an adherent of Lackwa Dada. One battalion stationed near Gwalior to assist the troops of Ambajee in opposing the Datia Rajah.

A large division of Ambajee's force has been detailed to cover Malwa, that Subah being threatened with an invasion by Lackwa Dada and Jaggoo Bapoo ; and the other corps in his employ, with an exception of one battalion of infantry and two thousand cavalry now with him at Agra, are employed against the Rajah of Datia, who has excited an insurrection of a serious nature in the district of Gwalior.

With an army thus dispersed for the purpose of quelling internal commotions in his own territories and with an exhausted Treasury, it surely would be the extreme of rashness—were Sindia to invade the dominions of our ally, the Vizir, and though we cannot rely on his good faith, yet I humbly conceive, we may in some degree depend on his forbearance so long as his affairs in Hindostan continue in their present distracted state.

Should however Sindia be so regardless or ignorant of his critical situation as to provoke the resentment of our Government, your Lordship might, I think, soon deprive him of his possessions in this quarter by detaching from his interests Ambajee, Begam Samroo, George Thomas, and the Rajahs of Jaipoor, Jodhpore, and Kota, who together with many

other Rajpoot Chiefs would think themselves amply remunerated for any services they might render by the restoration of those districts, of which they were dispossessed by the late Mahadjee Sindia.

Though Ambajee has hitherto been faithful to Sindia, yet there are reasons for suspecting that he might at present be drawn from the interest of that Chief, for, exclusive of his ambition which would, I believe, lead him to embrace independence whenever he saw a fair prospect of attaining it, he is likewise highly displeased that Apa Chitnavis, his avowed enemy, should have acquired the sole management of Sindia's affairs, and he is also apprehensive that on the return of Sindia to Hindostan he may be obliged to relinquish some of his districts and render a fair account of the expenditure of his collections for some years past.

Apa Chitnavis and his brother Gopal Bhow are men of great ability and experience in business; the latter is also deemed a good soldier, and as Ambajee well knows that they both bear him implacable enmity it is natural to suppose that this Chief should dread their return to Hindostan armed with all the power of Sindia's Government. I am inclined therefore to think that were your Lordship to guarantee to him the independent possession of the districts which he now holds under Sindia, he might be induced to desert his present service, or at least be prevailed on to preserve a strict neutrality.

Begam Samroo who lives under constant apprehension of the effects of Sindia's violence and rapacity, and George Thomas, who is disgusted with him on account of his being lately deprived of two pergunas that were given to Filoze, would both most readily avail themselves of your Lordship's protection from which they might derive great advantages.

And should it, in the event of war, be thought advisable to march our forces to Delhi for the purpose of releasing His Majesty from the thralldom in which he is now held by the Marathas, the troops of Begam Samroo and George Thomas might be previously instructed to take a position near that city in order to prevent the removal of the King from thence; George Thomas's force is now within fifty *cos* of Delhi and Begam Samroo's no more than thirty *cos* distant from that place; their interests are the same.

The disgraceful treatment that His Majesty has long suffered from the Marathas must naturally induce a wish on his part to return to the protection of the English, whose humanity he has already experienced, and though it be true that Shah Alam possesses only the name of King, yet possibly the sanction which this name would afford to your Lordship's political arrangements, might conduce to the advantage of the British interests in Hindostan.

With an exception of the Macheri Rajah whose force is inconsiderable, all the Rajpoots Chiefs have cause to dread the tyranny and oppression of Sindia ; it cannot therefore be doubted but that they would willingly join in a confederacy which at once presented the means both of gratifying their revenge and of promoting their interests.

Your Lordship is already apprized of the number and description of the forces in the services of Begam Samroo, George Thomas, and the Rajahs of Jodhpur and Jaipur. The other Rajpoot Chiefs can only furnish irregular troops, yet these might be employed with good effect in the Subah of Ajmer.

Lackwa Dada and Jaggoo Bapoo are still in considerable force in Malwa, and they are so formidable that Ambajee has made the most pressing instances to Mr. Perron to reinforce Bala Rao, his brother, with the two battalions now at Mutra, but this Frenchman is at present solely intent on reducing the fortresses of Agra and Aligarh, and will not assist the Maratha Chief.

Should your Lordship be compelled to hostilities, the party of the Bais might, I imagine, be rendered extremely useful, as I possess the means of entering into a negotiation with the principal Chief Lackwa Dada, his vakeel being very urgent with me to peruse letters from his master, relative to Sindia's disagreements with his family ; and I have likewise recently received an *arzee* from the Bais in which they request my attention to the interests of Lackwa Dada and Jaggoo Bapoo.

It would not possibly be a difficult matter to persuade Saheb Sing, the Rajah of Patiala, as well as other Sikhs, to enter into a confederacy which had for its object the reduction of the Maratha power in Hindostan ; but as this could not be effected, without ceding to them some districts near Delhi, as they might prove troublesome neighbours, and as the ruin of Sindia, should he provoke it, could be accomplished without their assistance, your Lordship may not, on this occasion, deem it expedient to require their services.

No. 124—New development of the Bais' war ; suspected collusion between Ambaji and Lakhwa Dada.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—GEORGE HILARO BARLOW, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Fathgarh, March 1799.

I have the honour to enclose, for the information of the Honourable Vice-President in Council, copies and translates of letters, which I this day received from Syed Reza Khan, my public agent at the Court of Delhi.

Though I know no more of Ahmad Khan than that he is a gentleman of good character, who has extensive connections in Gorackpour, yet conceiving it proper that the tenor of his services should be communicated to His Excellency the Vizir, I have, for this purpose, transmitted translates of the Khan's letter, and my public agent's, to the Resident of Lucknow.

Ali Bahadur, and Bala [Ganga] Dhar, who commands at Kalpi, have given me the most friendly assurances that should the Company's troops march through their districts, they shall be accompanied by men of respectability, who will be particularly instructed to provide every article, which may be required for the convenience of the Detachment.

(The last advices from Malwa mention that an accommodation had taken place between Bala Rao, and Lackwa Dada, in consequence of which the former Chief had agreed to evacuate that province and march towards Gwalior.

Ambajee has been apprized of this treaty and pretends to be highly offended at the weakness of his brother's conduct, but if it be really true that the contending parties in Malwa have come to an amicable agreement, I shall be inclined to believe that Bala Rao acted in conformity with Ambajee's wishes, the latter Chief having, from some time past been much more attentive to his own concerns in the district of Gwalior, than to the interests of Dawlat Rao Sindia.

It is possible, however, that Bala Rao, whose perfidy is notorious even amongst the Marathes, may only intend to lull Jaggo Bapoo and Lackwa Dada into a false security until he obtains a reinforcement from Ambajee, his present force being much inferior in number to the troops now in Malwa, who are attached to the party of the Bais.

No. 125—News of Zaman Shah's loss of his artillery in the Jhilm. Development of the Bais' war in Malwa very harmful to Sindhia's cause.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 14th March 1799.

I have the honour to enclose a *kharita* from Dowlat Rao Sindia to your Lordship's address.

In a letter that I this day received from Apa Chitnavis, and which is written in the most friendly terms, he positively assures me that Sindia will shortly proceed on his march to Hindostan.

If such be the Mahrajah's real intention, he should lose no time in giving it effect, for his affairs in this quarter wear a still more unfavourable aspect than when I last had the honour to address your Lordship.

The disturbances in the district of Gwalior have increased in so great a degree that Ambajee finds it necessary to send a reinforcement to the troops now there, and letters from Malwa assert that in consequence of an amicable accommodation between Bala Rao and Lackwa Dada, the former Chief had consented to withdraw his forces from that province.

Indeed, Ambajee, who has been informed of this agreement, affects to censure the terms as disgraceful and injurious to Sindia, but it is highly improbable that Bala Rao should have concluded any treaty with the party of the Bais, which had not received the previous sanction of his brother.

My latest advices from Lahore mention that Zaman Shah is still detained at Peshawar by the severity of the frost, and they further state that in his retreat from Punjab, the Shah lost the greatest part of his artillery by the sudden rising of the river Jhilam.

News from Fathgarh, 17th March 1799.

Late advices from Malwa mention that, on the 8th instant Lackwa Dada defeated and dispersed, the troops commanded by Bapoojee Sindia and Satvaji Patil. The former chief is distantly related to Dowlat Rao Sindia. It seems to have been their intention to form a junction with Bala Rao, who has not yet withdrawn his forces from Malwa.

Intelligence from Peshawar, dated the 11th ultimo, states that Mahmood having been defeated in Herat by the son of Zaman Shah, had fled for protection to a fortress in that province, which was closely invested by the Shah's troops.

No. 126—Progress of Lackwa Dada in his war against Daulat Rao's northern forces.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 25th March 1799.

I have the honour to enclose two *kharitas* to your Lordship's address from the Rajah of Jaipur and Ambajee Rao.

Ambajee has expressed himself highly pleased with, and very grateful for, the attention I had evinced towards him by pointing out the errors in his former *Arzee*, a copy of which I did myself the honour to transmit to your Lordship in my letter of the 17th instant.

(Sindia's affairs in Hindoostan by no means wear a favourable aspect at present. The fortress of Agra still holds out, and Lackwa Dada is advancing towards the camp of Bala Rao with an intention of attacking this Chief, of whose treachery he seems well aware.

The family of Lackwa Dada reside within a few *kos* of Cawnpore, at a place called Bithoor, and in a letter lately written to his relatives, the contents of which were communicated to me, he tells them that the treaty proposed by Bala Rao was only meant to amuse and deceive the party of the Bais.

Lackwa Dada further assures his family that he shall lose no time in marching against Bala Rao, and, that, in the event of his defeating the enemy, of which he has no doubt, it is his intention to proceed by rapid movements towards Agra.

Mr. Perron, who probably penetrated the designs of Lackwa Dada, has detached Colonel Sutherland with four battalions for the purpose of reinforcing Bala Rao, but if the party of the Bais act with promptitude and vigor, the fate of Malwa must be decided before this reinforcement can arrive in that province.

No. 127—Collins suspiciously watching movements of Perron and Sutherland.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—GEORGE HILARO BARLOW, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Fathgarh, 28th March 1799.

I have the honor to acknowledge my receipt of your letter of the 18th instant covering an extract of an address from the Right Hon'ble the Governor General dated the 8th of this month, to the Hon'ble the Vice-President.

Ever since the flight of Vizir Ali from Benares I have kept a vigilant eye on the proceedings of Mr. Perron, and this French Officer cannot, I think, make any movement without my being speedily informed thereof.

It would be dangerous were I to commit myself to Mr. Sutherland, as this officer is solely indebted to Perron for his present command. There is also a family connection between these officers, Sutherland having married the sister of Mr. Perron's wife, of which circumstance the Right Hon'ble the Governor General could not, I apprehend, have been informed.

No. 128—News of Ambaji having enlisted George Thomas, Perron's siege of Agra fort (held by Visram Bhau) and of Aligarh Sutherland's movements, Lackwa Dada's progress in Malwa.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 30th March 1799.

I have the honour to acknowledge my receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 4th instant, enclosing copies of your Lordship's instructions to

the Residents at Poona, Hyderabad, and Nagpur, the contents of which I have considered with the most serious attention and shall preserve with inviolable secrecy.

Ever since the flight of Vizir Ali from Benares I have kept a watchful eye on the conduct of both Ambajee and Mr. Perron and can venture to assure your Lordship that every movement of their troops has been faithfully and speedily reported to me by native agents in my employ.

From every information I have hitherto obtained of the proceedings of those commanders, I have reason to believe that they are at present solely intent on reducing the party of the Bais—but your Lordship will readily conceive how impossible it must be for me to penetrate the future designs of Sindia whilst I have no personal intercourse either with him or with those who possess his confidence, as the ambitious views of this chieftain seem irreconcilable with common sense, being contrary to his real interests and bearing no proportion whatever to his powers.

I have the honor to inform your Lordship, that on the 28th ultimo (which was the day after my receipt of official intimation respecting Sindia's treachery) I transmitted a detailed account to the commander of the forces in the field and to the Resident at Lucnow of the present disposition of the troops commanded by Ambajee and Mr. Perron, and your Lordship may be assured that I shall not fail to communicate to Sir James Craig and to Mr. Lumsden every circumstance that may hereafter occur, the knowledge of which might be useful to them in their respective departments.

I humbly conceive your Lordship knew not that Mr. Sutherland was married to the sister of Mr. Perron's wife, nor that he depended solely on this connection for support in Sindia's service in which his military talents are held in low estimation. Unless, therefore, your Lordship should again enjoin it, I shall make no advance towards cultivating a correspondence with that officer.

Ambajee has formed the design of entertaining in his own employ Mr. George Thomas and the troops now under his command, and with this view intends sending Kamgar Khan to the Englishman with a Khilat and offer of 50,000 rupees per month.

It is asserted that Mr. George Thomas is to be employed in reducing the refractory Zamindars in Mewat. It being necessary however, to attend minutely to every measure adopted by Ambajee, I have already taken steps which will, I trust, enable me to ascertain beyond a doubt the real motive of this proposed connection.

(Vishram Bhow, the qiladar of Agra, has offered to surrender the fort, provided himself and the garrison be permitted to retire, with their property unmolested, to Bhartpore. At present Mr. Perron will not

grant these terms, but as he has been much pressed by Sindia to possess himself of the fortress without loss of time, it is likely that this officer will not long insist on more rigid conditions, particularly as the troops in garrison have sustained little loss, and are by no means distressed for provisions.

There is a cessation of hostilities at Aligarh, in consequence of the qiladar's having engaged to deliver up that fort to Mr. Perron whenever Agra surrenders.

My latest advices from Malwa mention that Bala Row, has taken a strong position in the hills, at Barrapanty, where Lackwa Dada, whose force chiefly consists of cavalry, cannot attack him. In all probability Bala Rao will not leave his present situation until he be reinforced by Ambajee, and in the meantime the whole province of Malwa is open to the ravages of Lackwa Dada, who seems inclined to avail himself of this opportunity to enrich his troops by plunder.

Mr. Sutherland has not marched further than Fathpur, which city is only twelve *cos* distant from Agra. The Chiefs of the party of the Bais seemed by no means disheartened when they heard of the approach of this officer, nor did they appear to dread the consequences of a junction of his detachment with Bala Rao's forces.

The Rajah of Datia still continues to ravage the district of Gwalior and Lackwa Dada has promised to assist him with troops, when he has provided money for their subsistence, which, however, he has no other means of obtaining as far as I can learn, than by levying contributions on Ujjain, and other opulent towns in Malwa.

No. 129—Perron besieging Agra. Ambaji tries to recruit George Thomas.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 1st April 1799.

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a copy and translate of intelligence which I this day received from Syed Reza Khan, my public agent at the Court of Delhy.

Kamgar Khan left Agra on the 29th ultimo for the purpose of repairing to the camp of Mr. Thomas. Ambajee has consented to pay Mr. George Thomas, 50,000 rupees in advance, and Kamgar Khan has taken with him an *hoondi* to this amount.

I have the honor to enclose a return of the number of men and guns now employed in the siege of Agra, and shall likewise send copies of the same to Major General Sir James Craig and Mr. Lumsden, together with transcripts of the intelligence which was communicated to me from Delhi. I think it likely that Agra will soon be in the possession of Mr. Perron.

Translate of an extract of a letter from Namdar Khan to Hussien Ali Khan.

On the 20th of Shawal (28th of March 1799) my elder brother Kamgar Khan, proceeded to the captial (Shahjahanabad), whence taking Mr. George Thomas with him, who is now at Jhajar, he will depart for Oudepur. Besides his former *jaydad*, the Rajah (Ambajee) has fixed an allowance of 50,000 rupees a month for him and appointed him to finish this business. Although Ganesh Pant, who is there on the part of the Rajah, acquitted himself well in two encounters, yet by Mr. Thomas's presence there order will be restored.

No. 130—Details of the Bais' war in Maharashtra and of Daulat Rao's plans for a reconciliation. Baloba Tatyá reinstated.

FROM—WM. PALMER, RESIDENT WITH THE PESHWA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 5th April 1799.

By a newspaper which I received yesterday from Lakwa Dada's camp, I find that he is about 40 *kos* north of Ujjain. I cannot exactly learn his force, but from my recollection of his original strength, and the subsequent junction of confederates, it amounts to 15 or 16,000 men, and he has a good train of artillery.

The Bais' army and that of Parashuram Bhau are within ten *kos* of each other, and it is reported, that a junction of their forces is intended.

Poona, 12th April 1799.

(Daulat Rao Sindhia has sent for Balu Tatiya from his confinement in order to reinstate him in the ministry. The immediate consequence of this man's return to power, it is supposed, will be the flight or captivity of Nana Farnavis, and Sindhia expects from it a reconciliation with his family and the return of Lakwa Dada and his adherents to their allegiance.)

Yesterday a detachment of seven battalions, commanded by M. Duprat, a Frenchman, marched from Sindhia's cantonments. This detachment was formed professedly to proceed against the insurgents in Malwa, on the pressing instances of M. Perron. But it has taken a direction which

indicates its destination to be either against the army of the Bais or the Nizam's frontier, a meeting having lately taken place between the Bais and Parashuram Bhau.

(I am doubtful whether the accomplishment of the principal objects which Sindhia has in view, in recalling Tatyā to the direction of his affairs, would accelerate his return to Hindustan. This Minister will not contribute in the smallest degree, from his funds, to remove the pecuniary difficulties of the Government, having been already defrauded and plundered of near a kror of rupees. Sindhia's pressing necessities must be relieved by either the wealth of Nana Farnavis, the pillage of Poona, and the sequestration of the Peshwa's revenues, or the invasion of the Nizam's Dominions.)

Duprat's detachment is ordered to halt at Gardown* on the Bhimra, on the direct road to Parenda, and within 15 kos of the Nawab's frontier. [*Either Dhond or Pedgaon]

No. 131—Disorder everywhere in Daulat Rao Sindhia's Northern territories. Lakhwa Dada's success in Malwa. Begam Samru's hostility to Shah Nizam-ud-din. Udaipur Rana attacks Ambaji's agent in Ajmer.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 5th April 1799.

(Since my last address to your Lordship of the 1st instant fresh disturbances have arisen in various parts of Sindia's territories in Hindustan, which may I think be partly ascribed to the influence and intrigues of Lackwa Dada.

The Rajah of Udaipur, availing himself of the present distracted state of Sindia's affairs, has lately made an attack on those possessions in Ajmer, of which he had heretofore been deprived by Mahadji Patil.

The troops of the Rajah were defeated after a sharp conflict, by Ambajee's *sebandis* and some new levies raised by Golabjee Kadam, an officer in his service. But it would appear from the enclosure No. 1 that Ambajee still entertains apprehensions for the safety of his *perganahs* in the province of Ajmer.

Intelligence from Delhi states that Begam Samroo had perpetrated great outrages in the *perganahs* subject to Shah Nizam-ud-Deen, the Governor of Delhi, and that Jote Pant, amil (on the part of Ambajee) of Saharanpur and Panipat, had deserted the interests of his master and was likewise committing depredations in Shah Nizam-ud-Deen's *jagir*.

Ambajee has been obliged to reinforce the commandant of Sabalgarh, which fortress (distant about 30 *cos* from Gwalior) is threatened with an immediate attack by the Rajah of Datia.

My last advices from Malwa mention that Bala Rao had retired to Kota with his troops and that his camp had been plundered by the Grasias in the service of Lackwa Dada. When Ambajee was informed of this disaster, he directed his brother to continue in one post until Agra surrendered, when he and Mr. Perron would march with their united forces to oppose the party of the Bais. Lackwa Dada was moving towards Ujjain and Mandesor with the intent of levying contributions on those cities.

Notwithstanding the repeated injunctions of Sindia to Mr. Perron directing him to secure the fort of Agra without delay, this officer still refuses to permit the garrison to retire with their property to Bhartpur. In acting thus he apparently sacrifices the interests of his master to his own avaricious views, and if the intelligence contained in the enclosure No. 2 is to be depended on, the Frenchman may possibly have reason to repent his present conduct.

Golam Mahomed Khan of Rampur has tendered his services to Ambajee, but no answer has as yet been given to this Rohilla Chief.

No. 132—Ambaji's troubles in controlling his charge. Maratha jealousy of Sindhia's French officers who care only for self-interest. Jodhpur Collector's encroachment at Sambhar town. Perron's siege of Agra.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 9th April 1799.

I have the honour to enclose a *shuqa* from his Majesty Shah Alam in reply to your Lordship's declaration and letters of the 22nd and 25th of February.

It appears that the siege of Agra may yet be protracted some time, the *qiladar* having artfully made it the interest of the troops in garrison to defend the fort to extremity by insisting on payment of their arrears previous to any surrender; and my private intelligence from thence states that Ambajee, influenced either by jealousy or real apprehension of ill consequences to Sindia from the increasing power of Mr. Perron, seems by no means desirous that Agra should become subject to the authority of this officer.

Lackwa Dada in a private letter to his family mentions the impolicy of intrusting Mr. Perron with the fortresses of Delhi and Agra, and also

observes that the existing disturbances in Sindia's territories may be hereafter adjusted to the satisfaction of all parties by mutual concessions, but that this Frenchman will not easily be prevailed on to relinquish any command from which he derives either influence or emolument.)

Though these apprehensions may be ascribed to self interest, yet bearing in mind the insolent conduct of the French officers in the Deccan, and their interference in matters totally distinct from the military profession, (I think it is reasonable to suppose that many other Marhatta Sardars are equally desirous, with Ambajee and Lackwa Dada, of reducing the consequence which these Europeans have obtained in Sindia's Government.)

But, however this may be, it is at least certain that the Maratha chiefs are in general well aware of the perfidy evinced by the French in their conduct towards their friends and allies, for I have been careful to circulate amongst my native correspondents every exposition on this subject that has been transmitted to me by your Lordship's directions, and Ambajee as it suited his views, has likewise sent copies of the same to all his friends.

The state of affairs in Malwa has undergone little variation since I last had the honour to address your Lordship. Lackwa Dada however has detached 3,000 horse and foot, with artillery to the assistance of the Rajah of Oudipur, who is thereby enabled to recommence hostilities in the soubah of Ajmer.

It appears from the Jaipur intelligence that an amil in the service of the Rajah of Jodhpur had possessed himself of that part of the city of Sambar of which the late Bijay Singh was deprived by Madhajee Patil. This aggression however seems to have been disapproved of by the Jaipur Rajah to whom one division of the city appertains.

The Agra *akhbars* mention Begam Samroo's having consented to assist Ambajee with three battalions of sepoys; but my private agent at Delhi contradicts this news, and assures me that the Begam is far more inclined to favour the party of the Bais than to support the interests of Dowlat Rao Sindia.

No. 133—Various troubles of Ambaji. Perron gets Agra fort. Lakhwa Dada dominant in South Malwa.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 15th April 1799.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Rana of Oudipur assisted by the reinforcement lately sent him by Lackwa Dada and Juggoo Bapoo, has engaged and defeated with great slaughter, the troops

commanded by Golaba Kaddam in the district of Meywar. In consequence of this event, Ambajee who is exceedingly alarmed thereat, has pressingly urged Mr. George Thomas to proceed by rapid marches to Ajmer.

Recent advices from Malwa mention that Bala Rao and Bapoojee Sindia had marched from Kota, in considerable force, with an intent of renewing hostilities against Lackwa Dada, who is at present, employed in exacting contributions from the amil of Mandesor.

I have the honour to apprise your Lordship that Mr. Perron has at length consented to pay fifteen thousand rupees in compensation of arrears due to the garrison of Agra, and has likewise agreed to permit the *qiladar* and other Sardars to retire unmolested to Bhaatpur with their effects. These terms being finally settled, it was supposed that the fort would be delivered up on the 16th instant.

My private intelligence from Agra states that Ambajee has announced to Mr. Perron's Vakeel his receipt of a *shuqa* from Dowlat Rao Sindia empowering him to assume the charge of the fortress on its surrender. Whilst on the other hand, accounts of the same date from Mr. Perron's camp mention that Sindia has granted the eventual command of Agra to this officer.

It would be difficult to determine which of these reports is most deserving of credit, as in point of veracity the Maratha and Frenchman are exactly on a par, but they at least tend to evince that Ambajee and Mr. Perron are aspiring at the same object, and hence it may be inferred that no cordial union subsists between them.

No. 134—Lakhwa Dada's triumphant movements. Ambaji bewildered and distressed. His jealousy of Perron.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 19th April 1799.

I have the honour to apprise your Lordship that Mr. Perron's troops took possession of Agra on the 16th instant, in the afternoon, at which time the garrison evacuated the fort.

(It appears that Mr. Perron refused in civil terms to deliver over charge of this fortress to Ambajee on the ground of his being expressly appointed to the command thereof by the orders of Dowlat Rao Sindia. Though Ambajee submitted to the refusal with a good grace, yet my private intelligence mentions that he is extremely exasperated against Mr. Perron, whose success and influence have excited both the jealousy and apprehension of this Maratha chief.)

I believe the future operations of these commanders are not as yet determined on, and indeed it is by no means certain that they will hereafter act in conjunction, Ambajee's immediate march from Agra being already talked of, whilst Mr. Perron cannot, I should suppose, leave that place for some days at least. At present this officer is occupied in settling terms with the Vakeels of the Kelladar of Aligarh, and it is expected that this fort will also shortly submit to the authority of Sindia.

My native agent who accompanies Lakwadada's camp informs me that this chief had marched from Malwa with his whole force after levying heavy contributions and was arrived in the district of Mewar, where he had commenced an attack on Hamirgarh, but with little prospect of success as the fort was well fortified, strongly garrisoned, and advantageously situated.

This movement of Lakwadada's troops, which was quite unexpected by Ambajee, leads me to conjecture that the chiefs of the Bais' party have some expectation of deriving assistance from the Rajah of Udaipur, and possibly they also are not without hope of prevailing on the Jaypur Rajah to engage in the confederacy against Sindia.

I have the honor to enclose a translate of intelligence which was this day received from my private agent at Delhi. If Mr. George Thomas finally reject the offers of Ambajee Rao, Sindia's affairs in Hindostan will be involved in still greater difficulties, as there can be no doubt of Begam Samroo's acting the same part with Mr. George Thomas; and without the assistance of their troops I do not think Ambajee and Mr. Perron are sufficiently strong to subdue the party of the Bais.

I have likewise the honor to transmit for your Lordship's information a copy and translate of Ambajee's reply to a requisition made by me in consequence of the flight of that assassin Vizier Ali, from the jungles near Gorackpore.

No. 135—News of Zaman Shah's march back from Peshawar and of Ranjit Singh's progress. Perron's movements and designs. Lakhwa Dada's success in Ajmer subah.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 24th April 1799.

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that my advices from the Punjab mention Zaman Shah's having marched from Peshawar the 13th ultimo on the route towards Kabul, and that the insurrection in Herat had been quelled by the vigorous conduct of the Shah's son, who after defeating Mahmood had obliged this rebel to fly for protection to Balkh.

My intelligence from thence further states that Ranjeet Sing of Gujrat had taken the fort of Hasan Abdal and that he likewise menaced an attack on the strong fortress of Attock, both which places have long been in the possession of the Abdalies.

Since the surrender of Agra Mr. Perron has detached Mohan Sing's Battalion and the Aly-Ghole towards Meerut with an intention, it is imagined, of investing Kishen-garh, a fortress in that district subject to Lakwa Dada's authority, and Mr. Smith an officer in the service of Mr. Perron, has been sent into the Doab with a battalion and two guns for the supposed purpose of assisting in the siege of Aligarh, which fort still holds out.

The Kishna and Chand Battalions are also directed to be in readiness to march at the shortest notice, but their destination is not known. From the above detail it is evident, that Mr. Perron has no design, at present, of retaining any considerable force under his own immediate command.

Ambajee's future movements are not as yet finally determined on. Mr. Perron presses this chief to proceed with him to Aligarh, whilst Ambajee's officers, who affirm that Mr. Perron is already too powerful in Hindostan, are very urgent with their master to withdraw his troops and march immediately towards Mutra.

Letters of a recent date from Ajmer mention that Golabjee Kadam had fled for refuge to Hamirgarh after sustaining considerable loss of men in a conflict with the Grasias of Lakwa Dada's party.

P.S.—Since writing the above the Agra Dak has arrived and brings accounts of Ambajee's having marched towards Mutra on the 22nd instant.

No. 136—Aligarh fort holding out against Perron. Lakhwa Dada, on being hard pressed by George Thomas and Bala Rao in Ajmer, retires to Chitor.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 28th April 1799.

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that Mr. Perron crossed the Jumna on the 23rd instant, on his march towards Koel and that Ambajee Rao arrived at Mutra on the 24th of this month.

The garrison of Aligarh has been reinforced by the Rajah of Sasni, and Lakwa Dada lately remitted money for the payment of the troops there. This timely assistance has induced the *qiladar* to break off the negotiation which he had commenced with Mr. Perron for the surrender of that fortress, and he now seems determined on making a resolute defence.

My private agent at Delhy informs me that the reduction of Agra by Mr. Perron had intimidated the refractory amil Jote Panth into submission and, in consequence thereof, that the disturbances which lately prevailed in the soubah of Delhy had subsided.

My last advices from Ajmer describe the situation of Lakwa Dada to be extremely critical, Mr. George Thomas having advanced towards this chief from Kanour, whilst the troops of Bala Rao and Bapoojee Sindia occupied a post about four kos in his rear. It was supposed however, that Lakwa Dada, who has been considerably reinforced of late by the Rana of Oudepur, would endeavour to bring Bala Rao to a decisive action previous to the arrival of Mr. George Thomas at Chitorgarh.

When Lakwa Dada was apprized of Bala Rao's having left the province of Malwa with the intent of relieving Hamirgarh, he immediately raised the siege of that fortress and marched to Chitorgarh, where he is now encamped, in order to meet his enemies. By this movement, however, Nana Ganesh, Ambajee's Dewan, and Golabjee Kadam, have been enabled to effect a junction with Bala Rao and Bapoojee Sindia.

P.S. I have this instant been informed that a division of Ambajee's troops crossed the Jumna at Mutra on the 25th instant, and that this chief had declared his intention of proceeding to Ramghat, for the purpose of performing ablution at the place. I am inclined, however, to believe that he means to co-operate with Mr. Perron, in the siege of Aligarh.

No. 137—Aligarh taken by Perron. The fighting in Ajmer between Lakhwa Dada's party and Bala Rao Ingle. Lakhwa in despair. Ambaji's movements.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 3rd May 1799.

I have the honor to apprise your Lordship, that the Rajah of Sasni made his submission, and consented to pay tribute to Mr. Perron on the 26th of April.

In consequence of this unexpected event, the *qiladar* of Aligarh fled with precipitation from the fort, leaving behind his own property, as well as the public stores, the whole of which fell into the hands of Mr. Perron, who took possession of Aligarh on the 27th ultimo.

My advices from Ajmer mention that the Grasier of Lakwa Dada's army had surrounded the camp of Bala Rao, and, with the intent of forcing him to an engagement, were intercepting his supplies, whilst the latter chief, desirous of avoiding a general action until reinforced by Mr. George Thomas, had endeavoured to amuse Lakwa Dada by proposing a negotiation, which, however, was rejected by the party of the Bais.

Mr. Perron has detached four battalions, under the command of Mr. Sutherland, towards Ajmer by the route of Jaypur. This movement renders the situation of Lakwa Dada still more critical, and his ruin, which must equally involve the Rana of Oudipur, seems inevitable unless he can give Bala Rao, a total defeat previous to the arrival of the troops that are now advancing against him.

Lakwa Dada has lately sent Vakeels to Jaswant Rao Holkar, the present usurper of those districts in Malwa which were possessed by his father, the late Tuckojee Holkar, and to the Rajah of Jaypur, with a hope of obtaining assistance from them, but as Sindia's affairs in Hindostan have taken a favorable turn since the reduction of Agra, I think it likely that those chiefs will adhere to the most fortunate, as well as most powerful party.

I understand it to be the present design of Mr. Perron to attack the fort of Khurja, which is distant about eighteen kos from Koel, this being the only post of defence that the party of the Bais now possess in the Doab.

I have the honour to transcribe, for your Lordship's information, the following accounts of Ambajee's movements which I received yesterday from my native agent at Mutra, dated the 29th of April.

From the result of enquiry I learn that Ambajee after crossing the Jamna on the 22nd of Ziqad (28th April) marched six kos and encamped at the village of Hindoul. The following day he proceeded an equal distance and halted at the village of Nagla Birkoo, in the parganah of Khaira. It is reported that Ambajee is marching to the Chat of Garh Mukteshar for the purpose of performing ablution there. [*Hindoul*, probably Harnoul]

Garh Mukteshar is about twenty-five kos to the north west of Anoop-sharhar. The force which Ambajee now has with him does not exceed three thousand horse and foot.

No. 138—News of the movements and situation of Lakwa Dada, Perron, and Ambaji Ingle.

FROM -J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO -THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 6th May 1799.

I have the honor to transmit herewith a detailed account (No. 1) of the forces now serving at Chitorgarh under the command of Lakwa Dada, and which I believe to be correct, having expressly enjoined my native agent, who sent it me from the camp of the chief, to be particular in his enquiries and exact in his report, on this subject.

Lakwa Dada has been apprized of the present favourable intentions of Sindia towards Balooa Tantia, and will no doubt, make an advantageous use of the intelligence in his negotiations with the Rajahs of Jaypur and Jodhpur and Jaswant Rao Holkar.

My advices from the camp of Ambajee dated the 30th ultimo, mention that this chief had halted at Chandous, a village in the Doab situated within twenty kos of Garh Mukteshwar, in order to favour the junction of Mr. Perron, which was shortly expected to take place.

Mr. Perron had not left Aligarh on the 1st instant. It appears however, to have been his intention to move from thence immediately, as he has ordered his troops to lighten their baggage as much as possible, and to hold themselves in readiness to march at the shortest notice.

I have the honor to enclose a copy and translate (No. 2) of intelligence from Agra, and though I would by no means venture to vouch for its authenticity, yet I deem it necessary to assure your Lordship that the writer, who is a person of discernment, has heretofore always given me correct information.

No. 139—The movements of Bala Rao and Lakhwa Dada—Ex-wazir Ghazi-ud-din Khan a refugee in Bundi.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 11th May 1799.

I have the honor to apprise your Lordship that Ambajee Rao, was at Garh Muktesher on the 6th instant, and that Mr. Perron marched from Aligarh on the 2nd of this month in the same direction.

Several intelligent persons conceive that these commanders entertain hostile designs against Begam Samroo, on account of her late evasive and suspicious conduct. I cannot however, believe that Ambajee will make any immediate attempt to dispossess the Begam of ~~her~~ *Jaydad*, as such an aggression might cause the defection of Mr. George Thomas, whose services are at present indispensably required for the support of Bala Rao, in the subah of Ajmer.

My last advices from that province mention Bala Rao's determination to avoid a general action until he had formed a junction with the troops now advancing to his assistance. In the meantime there appears to be a great scarcity in his camp of grain, wood, and water,—these necessary supplies being frequently intercepted by the active exertions of the Grasias in Lakwa Dada's army.

My native agent at Kota has apprized me of the arrival of Ghaziuddeen Khan in the disguise of a faqir at Boondy, where he was received with great distinction. Ghaziud-Deen Khan had applied to the Rajah of Kota for a guard to escort him to the camp of Ali Bahadur, but this request was refused, and the Rajah would only grant an *harcarah* to accompany the Khan as far as his own territories extended.

The family of Ghaziuddeen Khan reside at Kalpi, and hence his present visit to these parts may be naturally accounted for ; nevertheless as the intriguing disposition, unprincipled character, and extensive ability of this man are well known, I thought it proper to notice his arrival in the vicinity of the Nabob Vizir's dominions.

No. 140—Prince Muzaffar Bakht surrendered to Collins at Fathgarh.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 13th May 1799.

I have the honor to apprise your Lordship that in compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble Vice-President in Council, I yesterday took charge of the person of Price Muzaffar Bakht, who arrived at this station on the 22nd ultimo under the guard of Captain Peter Burrowes.

I do myself the honor to enclose a *shuqa* to your Lordship's address from his Majesty Shah Alam, and likewise transmit for your Lordship's information, the copy and translate, of a representation, from Prince Muzaffar Bakht on the subject of his former conduct, as well as present situation.

No. 141—Move of Ambajee and Perron against a Doab Jat chief and Begam Samru.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 17th May 1799.

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that Mr. Perron joined Ambajee Rao, on the 8th instant near Siyana, a small fort in the Doab, commanded by a Jat Chief named Ramdhan, and situated about sixteen kos to the [north] west of Anup-shahar.

It appears to have been the intention of those commanders to besiege this place, under the pretence that Ramdhan instigated an attack, lately made on the camp of Ambajee by robbers, but this design has, at least, been suspended, in consequence of the earnest remonstrances of Shah Nizam ud Deen, to whose jageer Siyana appertains. Shah Nizam-ud-Deen left Delhi on the 10th of this month for the purpose of repairing to the camp of Ambajee.

My public agent at the court of Delhi assures me it was the general belief, and public talk in the city, that Ambajee and Mr. Perron were determined on depriving Begam Samroo of her Jaydad. He also writes that the Begam being perfectly aware of their hostile designs, had put the fortress of Sardhana into a respectable state of defence, and leaving a strong garrison there, was advancing towards Kotana, a ghat on the Jamna, where the Begam may be speedily reinforced by those Sikh sardars whom, it is supposed, she has attached to her views and interests.

No decisive engagement has taken place between the contending chiefs in Ajmer since I last did myself the honor to address your Lordship, but it appears that the troops of Lakwa Dada had been successful over those of Bala Rao in several skirmishes.

No. 142—Ambaji and Perron attack Nain-sukh Gujar, the chief of Parichhitgarh, and take Khurja (in the Doab). Truce between Bala Rao and Lakhwa Dada in Ajmer. Ghazi-ud-din leaves Bundi for Poona.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 22nd May 1799.

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that Ambajee and Mr. Perron having exacted forty thousand rupees from the Zamindar of Siana, marched from thence on the 13th instant towards Parichhitgarh, a strong fortress belonging to Nainsook, a Gujar Chief, who has committed many acts of aggression against the government of Sindia in Hindostan.

I beg your Lordship's excuse for having omitted to mention ere now, that the amil and *qiladar* of Khurja made their submission to Ambajee Rao, on the 1st of this month. By this event the sardars attached to the party of the Bais are left without a single fortress or post of defence in the Doab.

Begam Samroo is at Kotana, where she has assembled the greatest part of her forces. She lately transmitted to Ambajee a letter, from Dowlut Rao Sindia to his address, in which the Maharajah enjoins his chiefs not to molest the Begam under any pretence, as she was an old adherent of his family and ever ready to serve the Sarkar.

I have the honor to apprise your Lordship that on the 10th instant a cessation of hostilities was agreed on between the contending chiefs in the subah of Ajmer. This salutary measure seems to have been adopted at the pressing instances of Bala Rao, who, highly to the honor of his humanity if he were sincere, professed a strong desire to prevent the farther effusion of blood.

However, the perfidy which has too frequently disgraced the conduct of Bala Rao induces a belief with many, that his proposal for a truce was solely intended for the purpose of facilitating the junction of Mr. Sutherland, who, at the time when this treaty took place, had advanced within two days' march of Chitor-garh.

Whilst this negotiation was going forward Lakwa Dada loudly condemned the impolicy of intrusting the command of Agra to Mr. Perron, who, he said, would not be easily prevailed on to relinquish the charge of that fort, even by the orders of Dowlat Rao Sindia. Lakwa Dada further predicted that the power of the Maharajah in Hindostan would be but of short duration.

Ghazi-ud-Deen Khan took leave of the Rajah of Boondy on the 14th instant and proceeded on his journey towards the Camp of Ali Bahadur. It is reported, but on vague authority, that Ghazi-ud-Deen is going to Poona on the invitation of Nana Furnavees.

No. 143—Rejoicings for the fall of Seringapatam.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 26th May 1799.

However reluctant I have hitherto been to intrude unnecessarily on your Lordship, yet having received official intimation of the capture of Seringapatam, I cannot resist the strong impulse which I now feel, in common I conceive with every British subject in India, to congratulate your Lordship, with great warmth, and sincerity of heart on this brilliant and important conquest.

As there can be no doubt, but that this happy event will produce considerable effect on the mind of every prince in Hindostan, I shall lose no time in announcing the glorious success of the army commanded by General Harris, to His Majesty Shah Alam, and the Rajahs of Jaypur and Jodhpur, as well as to every native chief with whom I maintain a friendly correspondence.

No. 144—Lakhwa Dada returns to obedience, is ordered to Agra. Jaswant Holkar invades Ujjain.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 27th May 1799.

All reports concur in stating both the Peshwa and Sindhia to be in great consternation at the intelligence from Seringapatam, and that consequent of their breach of faith, and perhaps of treachery, they are

apprehensive of your Lordship's just resentment and meditating the means of averting or opposing it by a close union and concert between the two Darbars.

I am further informed that Sindhia has enjoined Lakwa Dada and Bala Rao to proceed with their united force immediately to Agra instead of Lakwa's marching to the relief of Ujjain, invaded by Jaswant Rao Holkar, as determined on the first intelligence of Lakwa's return to his allegiance.

No. 145—Peace between Bala Rao and Lakhwa Dada. Ambaji ordered not to molest Begam Samru. Jaswant Holkar invests Ujjain.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 29th May 1799.

Since I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 26th instant, accounts have been received from the subah of Ajmer, which mention several interviews that had taken place between Lakwa Dada and Bala Rao, in consequence of letters from Sindia and Ballooba Tatia to those chiefs, advising their immediate reconciliation.

My advices from thence further state that Bala Rao, had marched with the corps in his own immediate employ towards Malwa leaving Ambajee's troops at Hamirgarh under the command of Bapoojee Sindia. Lakwa Dada had likewise changed grounds, and, it was reported that he meant to proceed without delay to Oudipur.

Shah Nizam-ud-Deen who arrived in the camp of Ambajee on the 20th instant, seems to have interfered with some effect in behalf of Nainsook, the Goojar, Mr. Perron having consented to leave that Zamindar in peaceable possession of the fort of Paricheetgarh on condition of his giving security for the payment of thirty thousand rupees.

Ambajee appears to have obeyed the injunctions of Sindia by relinquishing all hostile designs against the *jaidad* of Begam Samroo. It is asserted in the Akhbars that the Begam has proposed a visit to his camp. But this intelligence I cannot readily credit.

(I learn from Malwa that Jaswant Rao Holkar has lately invested Ujjain, with a view of levying contributions on the principal moneyed inhabitants of that city. The aggression on part of Holkar is solely ascribable to the intrigues of Lakwa Dada, who, during his late disgrace, was the cause of great, possibly irreparable, injury to the interests of Sindia in Hindostan.

No. 146—Report of Daulat Rao having reappointed Lakhwa Dada as his deputy in Hindustan. Jaswant Holkar induced to leave Ujjain.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 3rd June 1799.

(I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information, the copy and translate of a private letter from the camp of Ambajee Rao, by which it would appear that the administration of Sindia's Government in Hindostan has been transferred to Lakwa Dada.)

Though I have hitherto received no official intimation, from the Darbar of Sindia, of this new appointment, yet I am partly inclined to believe that it has actually taken place,—Ambajee having very lately solicited my permission to conduct his correspondence at Poona by means of the Company's harcaras, which request he would not, I conceive, have preferred had he still retained the principal direction of the Maharajah's affairs in this quarter.

I have the honour to apprise your Lordship that the instances of Lakwa Dada have induced Jaswant Rao Holkar to withdraw his troops from Sindia's possessions in Malwa and likewise to relinquish all pecuniary demands on the inhabitants of the city of Ujjain.

No. 147—Official communication of the news of the fall of Seringapatam.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 4th June 1799.

I have the honour to acknowledge my receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 11th ultimo, and to return my grateful thanks for the glorious and important intelligence contained therein.

The capture of Seringapatam having been officially communicated to me, by order of the Honourable Vice-President in Council, I took the liberty on the 26th of last month of congratulating your Lordship on this event, which cannot but be productive of the most essential and permanent advantages to the British interests, and which, at the same time, so highly redounds to the honour of your Lordship's Government.

No. 148—Siege of Parichhitgarh. Begam Samru's advance in force.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT, WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 6th June 1799.

I do myself the honour to enclose a Kharita to your Lordship's address from the Rajah of Jodhpur.

Advices of the 1st instant from Parichitgarh mention, that Begam Samroo had arrived within three kos of this fort with five Battalions of sepoys complete, two hundred troopers, twenty-five pieces of cannon, and forty European artillery men. This report was made to Mr. Perron by an harcara whom he had sent to examine into the state and situation of her troops.

The nearer approach of Begam Samroo has alarmed both Ambajee and Mr. Perron, whose present force is by no means considerable. Possibly, however, the Begam entertains no hostile designs against those commanders, and only means to secure her own person from any attempt of violence or treachery.

No. 149—Ambaji and Perron retire from Parichhitgarh. Begam Samru's attitude.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 10th June 1799.

I have the honour to apprise your Lordship that Ambajee Rao and Mr. Perron marched from Parichitgarh, on the 4th instant towards Saharanpur, having previously exacted twenty-five thousand rupees from Nain Sook the Zamindar of that district.

The spirited conduct evinced by Begam Samroo, has induced Ambajee to submit to the humiliation of sending his son to her camp, for the purpose of gratifying her pride, or softening her resentment, and it is supposed that this visit will be productive of an interview and reconciliation between the Begam and the Maratha Chieftain.

I do myself the honour to enclose the translate of a letter from my native agent in Ambajee's camp, the contents of which will satisfy your Lordship that Begam Samroo neither fears nor respects Mr. Perron. In fact she considers this officer in the light of a determined enemy, who would deprive her of her *jaydad*, were his power proportionate to his enmity.

Though the injunctions of Dowlut Rao Sindia restrain Ambajee from making any direct attack on Lakwa Dada, yet having peremptorily ordered Bhau, his son, to chastise the refractory Sardars in the district of Oudipur, all of whom are adherents to the party of the Bais, it is by no means improbable that hostilities will shortly be renewed in the subah of Ajmer.

No. 150—Ambaji's son and George Thomas reduce mud-forts near Shahpura (in Mewar). Ambaji and Perron threaten Begam Samru's estates. Report of Bala Rao intending to desert to Holkar.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 17th June 1799.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. George Thomas, who lately formed a junction with Bhau, Ambajee's son, has reduced several mud forts situated in the vicinity of the city of Shahpura, and in the amildary of the Rana of Oudipur.

Lakwa Dada, perfectly aware that these aggressions are equally injurious to his reputation and interest, has marched from Oudipur towards Shahpura, with an avowed design of checking any farther depredations in the Rana's districts. In the meantime negotiations are still going forward, accompanied by warm professions of amity, conformably to the usage of the Marathas, and it is surmised that both Bhau and Bapoojee Sindia will shortly be prevailed on to evacuate the Subah of Ajmer by the assurances of Lakwa Dada to pay every pecuniary demand which Ambajee may justly claim from the Rana of Oudipur.

Ambajee and Mr. Perron seem to have established their quarters at Khatauli, one of the disputed Mahals, and the troops of Begam Samroo are encamped within a kos of the same place. Outlying picquets, covered by artillery, are posted from each camp and every precaution denoting apprehended treachery has been taken by both parties. My native agent in the camp of Ambajee, writes that if Mr. Perron does not soon relinquish his demands on the Begam, hostilities are unavoidable, as she is positively determined not to surrender the Mahals until her accounts are fairly settled, and the balance liquidated.

In this critical situation Ambaji talked of repairing to Hardwar, for the purpose of performing ablution, but it appears that the remonstrances of Mr. Perron have induced this chief to defer his design. Shah Nizam ud Deen set off for Delhi on the 9th instant, having received orders to return to the Presence in consequence of the precarious state of His Majesty's health.

Advices from Malwa mention that Bala Rao had tendered the services of himself and troops to Jaswant Rao Holkar, who was only withheld from accepting them by the objections which his principal Sardars made on account of Bala Rao's perfidious character, and the considerations of the heavy expenses attending such an engagement.

No. 151—Discord among Sindhia's officers in the North. Ambaji and Perron recommence hostilities against the party of the Bais (Lakhwa). Bala Rao hired by Jaswant Holkar.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 22nd June 1799.

I have the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information a copy and translate of an article of intelligence which I this day received from my private agent at Delhi.

Though Doulat Rao Sindia has repeatedly enjoined the contending Sardars in Ajmer to accommodate their differences, yet the commanders on the part of Ambajee, encouraged in their disobedience, as is supposed, by this chief and Mr. Perron, pay no regard to the Maharajah's orders on this subject.

My latest advices from that province mention, that Mr. Sutherland, George Thomas, and Nana Ganesh, Ambajee's Dewan, had advanced within five kos of the camp of Lakwa Dada, and were intent on forcing him to an immediate engagement.

It appears that Bapoojee Sindhia who professes implicit obedience on the present occasion to the commands of Dowlat Rao, apprized Lakwa Dada of his danger, and that in consequence of this information, the latter chieftain had written in very urgent terms to Jaswant Rao Holkar, as well as to the Sardars in the service of the Rana of Oudipur to lose no time in marching to his assistance with their forces.

The treachery which marks the general conduct of Sindia warrants a suspicion that Ambajee and Mr. Perron are acting conformably to his private instructions in recommencing hostilities with the party of the Bais in Hindustan, while their master is carrying on a negotiation with these females in the Deccan. But however this may be, there can be no doubt of the inclination of those commanders to effect the speedy destruction of Lakwa Dada, they being apprehensive that Sindia's affairs in this quarter will be confided to his management, in the event of a reconciliation between the Maharajah and his family.

prohibited the Rajput Sardars in his service from holding any correspondence or communication with the assassin. My native agent, likewise assures me that a Thakur, named Sangram Sing, has been disgraced and turned out of the city in consequence of his having disobeyed this injunction.

I think it very probable that the Rajah of Jaypur may be induced to adopt effectual measures to prevent Vizir Ali from repairing to the court of Zaman Shah, but I much doubt whether Pratab Sing will be easily prevailed on to surrender this miscreant at the requisition of the English Government, as the Rajpoot chiefs entertain very mistaken notions respecting the rights of hospitality, which, surely ought never to be exerted for the protection of assassins.

* It is not, however, impossible that Vizir Ali may effect his escape from Jaypur, and endeavour to reach Kabul by the route of Bikaner, in which case he must pass through the Jodhpur country. In order, therefore, to provide against this event I have addressed a letter to the Jodhpur Rajah reminding him of your Lordship's representation, regarding the baseness, treachery and cruelty of Vizir Ali's disposition and strongly claiming, as well on the principles of policy, as of common justice, the seizure of the person of the assassin, should he attempt to pursue his journey through the Jodhpur district.

(Bapoojee Sindia has at length paid his personal respects to Lakwa Dada, in consequence, as I apprehend, of Balloo Tatia's visit to the camp of the Bais, an event which also seems to have wrought a considerable alteration both in the views and conduct of Ambajee and Mr. Perron, the latter having recalled Mr. Sutherland from the Subah of Ajmer, while the former has directed Mr. George Thomas to withdraw his troops from the vicinity of Lakwa's camp. Ambajee and Mr. Perron are arrived at their respective cantonments.)

No. 155—Jaipur Rajah refuses to deliver up Wazir Ali. Collins' past experience of the Jaipur darbar. He sends his munshi Enamullah Khan to Jaipur to negotiate for the extradition of Wazir Ali.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 8th July 1799.

I have the honour to enclose a *Kharita*, from the Jodhpur Rajah, to your Lordship's address.

The Rajah of Jaypur has received my letter, requiring the seizure and surrender of the person of Vizir Ali, but I understand, from my native agent, that there is little hope of the Rajah's being prevailed on to comply with my requisition on this subject.

It seems, Pertab Sing, pretends that he should incur indelible disgrace were he to deliver up any man, however enormous the crimes of the delinquent might be, who had sought protection in his dominions, and it is not impossible but that he really may be actuated by this false principle of honor. But I am much mistaken if the ministers who influenced his conduct on the present occasion, had any other view, in granting Vizir Ali protection, than that of draining him of the rich jewels which the young assassin is reported to possess.

I formerly resided some months near the city of Jaynagar, and from the experience I then had of the venality of the Rajpoot Chiefs in general I am rather inclined to believe that Pertab Sing's erroneous ideas respecting the rights of hospitality might be corrected, provided a handsome pecuniary reward were promised to his Ministers, on their delivering over the person of Vizir Ali to the justice of the English Government.

In order, however, to obtain an accurate knowledge of the design of Pertab Sing and his confidants, I have judged it expedient to direct my head Moonshee, Enam Ullah Khan, to proceed without delay, to Jaypur; and as this person possesses considerable address, good sense, and respectable character, I can confide in his report of the real situation and prospects of the assassin at that court.

No. 156—Lakhwa Dada fully reconciled to Sindhia, the Bais' war in Hindustan ends. The munshi of Collins fails at Jaipur.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 12th July 1799.

The Rajah of Jaypur has not, as yet, replied to my requisition regarding Vizir Ali, nor do I believe that he has made up his mind on this subject.

In fact, though Pertab Sing feels great repugnance to adopt any strong measures against the assassin, yet, at the same time, he ~~seems~~ extremely apprehensive of the consequences of affording protection to a wretch who has excited the just resentment of the English Government by the enormity of his crimes.

My native agent informs me that Pertab Sing often laments the dilemma in which he finds himself involved, by the arrival of Vizir Ali at Jaypur, and likewise assures me there is good reason to suspect that the assassin and his vile accomplices, Waris Ali and Izzat Ali will at last, through the timid policy of the Rajah, be permitted to pursue their journey, unmolested, towards Kabul.

Immediately on receiving this intimation, I apprized Pertab Sing, by an express, that a confidential agent of mine was proceeding to his court with all possible expedition, in order to explain, more fully than could be done by letter, every particular circumstance relating to the horrid massacre at Benares, and I subjoined an earnest request that Vizir Ali might not be allowed to leave the city of Jaynagar until the Rajah had seen and conversed with the person whom I had deputed.

Lakwa Dada having frequently written to me in the most friendly style since his late reconciliation with Sindhia, I had no hesitation in soliciting the interposition of his authority and advice with Pertab Sing on the present occasion ; and I am free to confess that I have greater expectation of deriving advantage from the influence of this chief, than from the promised exertions of Ambajee, whose power is on the decline at Jaypur.

I understand, Mr. Sutherland is arrived in the vicinity of Jaypur, where he purposes remaining until he has exacted two lacs of rupees from Pertab Sing on account of arrears due to Mr. Perron. (The disputes in Ajmer between Lakwa Dada and Ambajee's sardars appear at length to be amicably adjusted. Ambajee and Mr. Perron still continue at their respective cantonments.)

No. 157—News of Wazir Ali in Jaipur. Movements of Sindhia's Generals in Rajputana.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 17th July 1799.

It appears by my last advices from Jaypur, that Vizir Ali had been strongly importuned by Pertab Sing to retire to Amber, a hill fort situated about three kos from Jaypur, and that on the assassin's refusal to accept of this asylum, he had been told by the Minister of the Rajah, that their Master could not permit his longer residence in the city, as he should thereby incur the displeasure of the English sardars and Mr. Perron.

My intelligence further states, that in consequence of the above intimation, Vizir Ali was preparing to depart from Jaypur, with an intention of repairing to Jodhpur, and with the hope of obtaining protection from the Rajah of that country.

And as the *Akhbars* from Ajmer and Mutra, speak confidently of Lakwa Dada's design to march without delay to Jodhpur, I have urgently requested this chief to avail himself of the present favourable opportunity for securing the person of the assassin. I have likewise directed my native agent at Jaypur, to follow Vizir Ali with spies, whatever route he may pursue, after his departure from the city.

The Kota Rajah has been induced, by the persuasions of Kashi Rao Holkar and Doulat Rao Sindia, to refuse compliance with the pecuniary demands of Jaswant Rao Holkar, and in consequence of this refusal the latter menaces an immediate attack on the Rajah's territories.

I do myself the honour to enclose the copy and translate of a private letter from the Camp of Ambajee Rao.

No. 158—Wazir Ali's treatment and condition in Jaipur. Ambaji's reported treacherous designs against Lakhwa Dada. Disloyalty of Daulat Rao's Generals to their master.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 22nd July 1799.

My advices from Jaypur, of the 16th instant, mention that Rajah Pertab Sing had peremptorily ordered Vizir Ali to quit Jaynagar in two days, and they further state that Mr. Sutherland had strongly solicited the Rajah to secure the person of the assassin. It appears, however, that neither his instances, though urged in the name of Mr. Perron, nor my late request for the detention of Vizir Ali, had produced the desired effect.

The assassin certainly suffers much from pecuniary distress at present. He has recently been robbed of the little ready money which he brought with him to Jaypur, and his most valuable jewels are supposed to be in the possession of Waris Ali, on whose integrity or attachment no reliance can be placed.

Unless Sindhia should effect a cordial reconciliation with the Bais, by which event he would be enabled to return to Hindostan, his possessions in this quarter can never be restored to tranquillity, the Government thereof being contested by two chieftains, each of whom seems determined on supporting his own authority, though both must be sensible that the consequences of their dissensions cannot but be ruinous to the interests of their master.

My native agent in the camp of Ambajee assures me that he obtained the perusal of a letter, written by that chief to Kamgar Khan and Mr. George Thomas, in which they were most positively enjoined to attack and if possible seize the person of Lakwa Dada, on the pretext of his having captured six guns from Nana Ganesh, Ambajee's Dewan.

But I much doubt whether Mr. George Thomas will be persuaded to execute these violent orders, as he has, very lately, received strong

injunctions from Sindhia to respect the authority of Lakwajee, and I am rather inclined to think that this chief will be allowed to march to Jodhpur without molestation.

Ambajee and Mr. Perron, with a view of strengthening themselves against the influence of Balloo Tantia, are endeavouring to attach to their own interests the Zamindars and inferior officers in the service of Sindhia. In fact, they apprehend that the reconciliation of the Maharajah with his family must eventually be subversive of their present power, and this apprehension has been productive of a temporary union between these commanders who, a few months since, bore the most inveterate enmity towards each other.

No. 159 —Three lakhs of rupees to be offered to Jaipur for the surrender of Wazir Ali. War with Lakhwa Dada in Ajmer renewed.

FROM —J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 29th July 1799.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Vizir Ali has prevailed on Pertab Sing to permit his residence in Jaypur some time longer, under the pretence that several of his adherents had not yet joined him.

My native agent at Jaypur assures me, however, that the Rajah was principally induced to comply, from his desire of conversing with Enam Ullah Khan previous to the departure of the assassin from the city. It seems Pertab Sing has already prepared a proper house for the reception of my Moonshy.

In consequence of my being empowered by the Honourable the Vice-President in Council, to engage to pay the ministers of the Rajah of Jaynagar, the sum of three lacs of rupees, provided they will cause the person of Vizir Ali to be delivered into my hands, I, yesterday, dispatched instructions to Enam Ullah Khan for the guidance of his conduct in this negotiation, and I herewith do myself the honour to transmit copies of the same, in English and Persian, for your Lordship's information.

I must confess that I now begin to entertain strong hopes that the assassin will be delivered up, as during my residence in India, which includes a period of thirty years, I never yet had the honour to be acquainted with any Hindoo who could resist on whatever account the reward were tendered, so liberal an offer as that which His Excellency the Vice-President in Council has authorized me to make to the Ministers of Pertab Sing.

Since my last address of the 22nd instant several skirmishes have taken place between the troops of the contending chiefs in the soubah of Ajmer ; but no decisive advantage has been gained by either party.

The renewal of hostilities is solely ascribable to Lakwa Dada, who, on the 15th of this month, made a vigorous, and in some degree, successful, attack on the troops of Nana Ganesh and Mr. George Thomas. From that day until the 20th instant, which is the date of my last advices from Ajmer, the adverse parties have been alternately negotiating and fighting.

It appears, however, that Lakwajee may march to Jodhpur, without molestation, whenever he pleases ; Ambajee's sardars being very willing to accede to any terms that will leave them at perfect liberty to oppress the Rana of Oudipur, who seems to have incurred the particular displeasure of their master.

No. 160 —Wazir Ali offers to surrender to Collins. Perron turns against George Thomas. News of Begam Samru, Lakhwa and the Patiala Rajah.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 4th August 1799.

I have the honour to apprise your Lordship that my munshi Enam Ullah Khan, arrived at Jaipur on the 29th ultimo. It appears that his journey thither had been unusually retarded by the very heavy rains which have lately fallen.

Pertab Sing sent his confidential Minister, Hakeem Shewair [Xavier DeSilva], with a splendid retinue, to meet Enam Ullah, who, after the usual compliments had passed, was conducted into the city, where a very commodious habitation had been prepared for his reception.

Enam Ullah having requested directions for the guidance of his conduct should the Rajah or his Ministers attempt to negotiate a pardon for the assassin, I herewith, do myself the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information copies, in English and Persian, of the instructions which I gave my Moonshy on this subject.

This precaution on the part of Enam Ullah proceeded from certain expressions that were ascribed to Vizir Ali, and of which Pertab Sing was supposed to be well informed. It seems the assassin has repeatedly declared to the following effect,—

“ My guilt in this transaction originated from the advice of others. I wish that I may be surrendered to the person deputed by Colonel Collins, provided my life be spared and a pension allotted for my subsistence.”

(The situation of affairs in Ajmer has undergone little, or no alteration since I last had the honour to address Your Lordship. The terms insisted on by Ambajee are, that Lakwā Dada shall evacuate the districts of Mewar, and relinquish half the revenues collected from the city of Shahpura.)

Mr. Perron has been pressingly urged to reinforce Mr. George Thomas with the troops now serving under the command of Colonel Sutherland in the vicinity of Jaypur, but though the Frenchman assures Ambajee that his requisition on this head shall be complied with, yet I much doubt whether the detachment will leave its present situation until the change of the monsoon.

A division of Mr. Perron's troops has lately deprived George Thomas of the pargana and fort of Jhajhar. Mr. Thomas is by no means of a disposition to submit tamely to an injury of this nature, and as he has frequently represented the aggression to Ambajee, but without obtaining any redress, I should not be surprized if he were to desert his present party, and espouse the interests of the Bais.

Lakwaji has invited Begam Samroo to take possession of the city and fortress of Delhy, and Mr. Perron has been informed that the Begam will most likely march to the capital at the conclusion of the rains.

Two cosids in my employ who left Amritsar on the 16th of July, report that Sahib Sing (not the Rajah of Patiala, but another Sikh chief of consequence) had moved with a considerable force towards Kashmere with the intent of invading that province. It was said, also, in the Punjab, that, in consequence of the near approach of the Sikhs, the subahdar of Kashmere had sent several expresses to Zaman Shah for assistance.

No. 161—Daulat Rao Sindhia orders that the Jaipur Rajah be required to deliver Wazir Ali to Collins' agent.

FROM—W. PALMER, RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—THE RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

Poona, 18th September 1799.

On the 14th instant I had the pleasure to forward to you, under a private address a letter from Doulat Rao Sindia, to his Naibs in Hindostan, directing them to require from the Rajah of Jaypur, the surrender of the person of Vizir Ali into the custody of the agent whom you had deputed to Jaypur for the purpose of apprehending that assassin.

No. 162—Negotiations at Jaipur Court for the extradition of Wazir Ali, how delayed. News of Ambajee, Perron, Jaswant Holkar and Zaman Shah.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 11th August 1799.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Enam Ullah Khan has been admitted to an audience with the Rajah of Jaypur, who received him with marked distinction.

As the first visit to the Darbar of a native prince generally passes away in ceremony and compliment, Enam Ullah had no time or opportunity to enter upon any other part of my instructions than that which related to the conduct of Vizir Ali at Benares. On this subject Pertab Sing explicitly declared that your Lordship's representation, the particulars of which had been recapitulated by my Moonshy, had fully convinced him that the assassin was totally undeserving of his protection.

Enam Ullah was promised another audience on the 7th of this month, when he meant to explain to Pertab Sing, conformably to his instructions, the impolicy and danger of permitting Vizir Ali to repair to the court of Zaman Shah. In the meantime he has the Rajah's free consent to communicate unreservedly with the Ministers on the subject of his mission.

In my last address of the 4th instant, I had the honour to mention to your Lordship one of the Rajah's Ministers named Hakeem Shewair [Xavier De Silva Leitao]. Since then I have learnt that this gentleman, whose real name is De Silva, of Portuguese extraction, has for many years past held a very confidential situation in the family of Pertab Sing. As far as professions can be relied on, I have every reason to expect the support of this minister's interest, which is considerable, in my present negotiation.

There are two other persons, I am informed, who likewise possess influence at the court of Jaypur, Roy Chand, the Rajah's Dewan, and Samboo Sing, a distant relation of Pertab Sing. Both these men are particularly connected with Hakeem Shewair.

On combining the whole of the information from Jaypur I think it very probable that Pertab Sing may be prevailed on to deliver up the person of Vizir Ali; at the same time, however, it is by no means impossible that the Rajah, actuated by religious principles, may endeavour to exact a promise from me, on the part of the English Government, that the life of the assassin shall be spared.

Your Lordship may be assured I shall reject as perfectly inadmissible, every proposition of the above tendency. but as such a situation may be brought forward, I could wish to be honoured with your Lordship's commands for the direction of my conduct in the event of its being obstinately persisted in.

I understand Pertab Sing has confined Waris Ali in the fortress of Amber, having previously despoiled him of the jewels which that wretch had purloined from the assassin his master.

In consequence of the pressing and repeated entreaties of Ambajee Row, Mr. Perron has at length directed his officers to restore the parganah and fort of Jhajhar to Mr. George Thomas's amil.

It is reported that Mr. Perron is levying men in the vicinity of Farrukhabad and Rampur, for the purpose of forming four new battalions, two of which are, it is said, to be regulars. This officer has promised an immediate visit to Ambajee at Mutra.

No decisive event has taken place in the subah of Ajmer, since I last had the honour to address your Lordship.

My latest advices from Kota mention that the troops of Jaswant Row Holkar had committed great ravages within twenty-five kos of the capital, and that the Rajah (Umedsing) was assembling a considerable force in order to repel this aggression.

Accounts from Amritsar, dated the 26th ultimo, state that Zaman Shah was still at Qandahar, that his principal sardars were disaffected, and that the hostile designs of Morad Shah of Balkh, against Kabul, had occasioned great alarm in that city.

No. 163—At Jaipur negotiations continue for the surrender of Wazir Ali. News of Perron and Jaswant Holkar, and of the victory gained by Lakhwa Dada over Nana Ganesh in Mewar.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 18th August 1799.

The Rajah of Jaypur excused himself from receiving Enam Ullah Khan on the 7th instant according to appointment, on the pretence of indisposition, but deputed Hakeem Shewair for the purpose of learning the objects of his mission.

Enam Ulla Khan in several conferences with this Minister, urged every argument suggested by his instructions in order to induce the Rajah

to deliver up Vizir Ali to the justice of the English Government, and there can be no doubt but that his reasoning on this subject was faithfully reported to Pertab Sing.

On the 10th of this month Enam Ulla waited on the Rajah by invitation, and I now do myself the honour to enclose (No. 1) the copy and translate of a letter that I yesterday received from my Moonshy in which the particulars of the conversation that passed at this interview are fully stated.

It appearing as well from the proposals made by Pertab Sing as from the tendency of his observations, that he entertains hopes of deriving greater advantages from the possession of Vizir Ali's person than your Lordship might be inclined to grant, I conceived it would be prudent to seem satisfied for the present, with the imprisonment of the assassin and an assurance that he should not be released from confinement but with your Lordship's express consent.

I have the honour to transmit herewith (No. 2) copies in English and Persian of my reply to Enam Ullah's statement of the conference which he held with the Rajah and his Minister.

Should Pertab Sing arrest the person of Vizir Ali, I shall suppose, after so strong a measure, that he may be prevailed on to proceed further. But I confess myself extremely anxious for the direction of your Lordship's superior judgment in the future conduct of this delicate negotiation, and I hope to be excused the liberty of suggesting that a letter from your Lordship to the Rajah of Jaypur would, on every account, be more effectual than any step I feel myself warranted to take in the present stage of the business.

Enam Ulla did not specify, or even hint at, the exact sum which I was willing to pay on the surrender of Vizir Ali's person, but only mentioned to Hakeem Shewair, in general terms, that a handsome reward would be given whenever the assassin were delivered into my hands.

(Mr. Perron arrived at Mutra on the 13th instant, having previously ordered four battalions, and the Ali Ghole, to proceed to that station. It would appear by the *Akhbars* that Sindia has directed this officer to demand payment from Ambajee Rao of one crore and forty-seven lakhs of rupees. The Maharaja, it is also said, has instructed Mr. Perron to be prepared for the seizure of Ambajee's person should such a measure become necessary.)

The Rajah of Jaypur having received orders from Dowlat Rao Sindia to pay all arrears of tribute to Lakwa Dada, has refused to make any advances of money to Mr. Sutherland. When Mr. Perron was informed of this circumstance he addressed a strong remonstrance to the Maharajah

pointing out the necessity of his receiving the balance due from Partab Sing on account of the last year, as otherwise he could not be relieved from his present pecuniary embarrassment.

Advices from Kota mention that Zalim Sing had assumed the command of Rajah Umedsing's troops in order to oppose the aggressions of Jaswant Rao Holkar. (Zalim Sing has, at the instance of Ambajee, proposed to mediate an accommodation between this chief and Lakwa Dada, but the latter declined the offer on account of the repeated acts of treachery which he had experienced on the part of Ambajee Rao.)

Accounts from Mewar state that on the 9th instant a body of Lakwajee's troops, about five thousand in number, carried by assault one of the batteries of Nana Ganesh, which was defended by two battalions of sepoys under the command of Bunead Sing, and Bakhtawar Sing, both of whom were wounded and made prisoners. Nana Ganesh lost in this action, killed and wounded, 800 men, five pieces of cannon, with their ammunition carts, and much baggage.

It is said that Mr. George Thomas was prevented from assisting the troops of Nana Ganesh on this occasion by the overflowing of a nala which ran between his camp and the assaulted battery.

When Ambajee was apprized of the disaster in Mewar, he urgently requested that Mr. Perron would immediately reinforce his commanders in that district, but his requisition seems to have been treated with evasion and neglect.

PS.—Since writing the above I have received another letter from Enam Ullah Khan, a copy and translate of which (No. 3) I have the honour to forward. From the contents thereof I conceive that Rajah Partab Sing expects some assurance from the English Government of support should his dominions be attacked by Zaman Shah in consequence of the imprisonment of Vizir Ali's person. On this particular head I could wish to be honoured with early instructions, as I do not intend to commit myself thereon by any promise, and my agent at the Jaypur Court shall be enjoined to observe the same precautions.

No. 164—Negotiations at Jaipur regarding Wazir Ali. Lakhwa Dada dominant in Shahpura.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 28th August 1799.

On account of heavy and incessant rains, and the consequent overflowing of the nalas in this quarter, my intelligence from Jaypur has been, for some days past, unusually retarded. This morning, however, I received several dispatches from thence, copies and translates of which I do myself the honour to enclose (Nos. 1, 2, 3).

As the contents of these dispatches afford some hope that Partab Sing may be induced to deliver up the person of Vizir Ali, without annexing to his compliance conditions which would be displeasing to your Lordship, and as it further appears, therefrom, that the Rajah is rather desirous of Enam Ullah's staying some time longer at Jaypur, I shall not, at any rate, recall him from thence until the assassin be confined in the fortress of Amber.

Partab Sing has been strongly solicited by Lakwa Dada to assist him with a body of troops for the purpose of opposing Mr. Perron, and in the event of his affording the assistance required, (Lakwajee promises to restore those districts of which he has been deprived by Dowlat Rao Sindia and likewise remit all arrears of tribute due from the Rajah to the Maratha Government.)

Partab Sing seems inclined to embrace these offers, but those who possess his confidence say, that he will temporize until he be well informed of the strength of the contending parties. In the meantime, the Rajah is preparing his park of artillery, recruiting his corps, and has directed all the Rajpoot chiefs, dependent on his authority to hold themselves in readiness to repair to Jaypur at the shortest notice.

Ambajee has not yet prevailed on Mr. Perron to march towards Mewar. Indeed the latter plainly declares that he shall not oppose Lakwa Dada without orders to that effect from Dowlat Rao Sindia.

Accounts from the Subah of Ajmer mention that since the late defeat of Ambajee's troops in Mewar, Mr. George Thomas and Nana Ganesh had retreated about ten kos. It appears, also, that the former had made a tender of his services to Lakwajee, but with what success I am not yet apprized. Lakwa Dada is employed, at present, in collecting the revenue of Shahpura.

I herewith transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies and translates (No. 4) of the replies of the respective native chiefs to whom I addressed requisitions for the seizure of the person of Vizir Ali.

No. 165—Collins hopeful of easily securing extradition of Wazir Ali.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 1st September 1799.

I have the honour to forward herewith the copy and translate of a letter which I this day received from Enam Ullah Khan.

From the conversation that passed in the last audience my agent had with Partab Sing as well as from the friendly disposition of Hakeem Shewair, who is entirely in my interests, I profess it to be strongly my

opinion that your Lordship's letter to this Rajah of the 31st July (the receipt of which I did myself the honour to acknowledge two days since to Mr. Edmonstone, by whom it was forwarded) will happily and speedily terminate my present negotiation at the court of Jaypur.

But as any appearance of great impatience or anxiety on my part in this stage of the business would most probably induce a belief at the Rajah's durbar, that I might be prevailed on to give a greater reward, on the surrender of the assassin's person, than the sum authorised by the Honourable Vice-President in Council, I shall not press this subject further, until I learn the effect which your Lordship's late address to Partab Sing has produced in his sentiments.

No. 166—Ambaji engages Perron to reinforce Sindhia's army in Mewar against Lakhwa Dada.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 4th September 1799.

I have the honour to enclose the copy and translate of a letter which I received yesterday from Hakeem Shewair.

At present Rajah Partab Sing is on an excursion to the fortress of Amber, but he has promised, on his return from thence, to transmit to my care a Kharita, to your Lordship's address, containing assurances, respecting the confinement of Vizir Ali, similar to those which his Minister has given me on the same subject.

The *Akhbars* from Mutra mention that Mr. Perron, in compliance with Ambajee's repeated importunities, has at length consented to march to Mewar, by the route of Jaypur, on the following conditions:—(1) that in the event of Sindia's disapproving of this measure, Ambajee must take the responsibility on himself. (2) That should Begam Samroo invade his (Mr. Perron's) *jaydad* whilst he was absent therefrom, Ambajee must be accountable for all deficiencies of revenue occasioned by the Begam's aggression. (3) That all extraordinary expenses resulting from scarcity of provisions (an event which Mr. Perron says may be expected, should the Rajah of Jaypur co-operate with Lakwa Dada) are to be defrayed, as well as other contingent charges, by Ambajee Rao. Lastly, that he (Mr. Perron) cannot consent to act in conjunction with Mr. George Thomas.

Ambajee having assented to the foregoing conditions and advanced four lakhs of rupees to Mr. Perron by good bills, four of this officer's battalions marched from Mutra on the 30th ultimo, towards Jaypur. However, on the following day these corps were directed to halt till further orders, in consequence of disturbances which had arisen in Ambajee's camp amongst the Jharry Fouj who were deeply in arrears.

I have judged it necessary to detail the above particulars for your Lordship's information, as I know not how far the present designs of Ambajee and Mr. Perron may eventually affect my negotiation at the court of Jaypur.

Lakwa Dada has lately received letters from Ambajee and Mr. Perron containing the most friendly professions, which he considers as deceitful. I learn, however, from the Vakeel of Lakwa Dada that his master would not be averse to a reconciliation with Ambajee, provided he could rely on the sincerity of the latter chief. Should matters be accommodated by these Marahatta sardars it is not unlikely that their united forces will shortly be employed either against Mr. Thomas and Begam Samroo or in levying contributions on the Rajpoot Rajahs.

Jaswant Rao Holkar has consented to evacuate the territories of the Kota Rajah on being paid two lakhs of rupees.

No. 167—Reconciliation attempted between Lakhwa Dada and Ambaji.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 7th September 1799.

I have the honor to forward a *kharita* to your Lordship's address, from the Rajah of Jaypur.

I likewise, do myself the honor to enclose the copy and translate of a letter (No. 1) from my agent at the Jaypur court, detailing the particulars of his last conference with Pertab Sing.

The enclosures numbered 2, 3 contain transcripts and translations of letters, to my address, from the Jaypur Rajah and Enaum Ulla Khan.

My native agent with Mr. Perron informs me that Ranjeet Sing, the Bharatpour Rajah, and Emam Bakhsh Khan, the confidential friend of Lakwa Dada, have proposed an accommodation between Ambajee and Lakwa Dada, and that it was supposed the following conditions would be accepted by both parties. (1) That Oudipur, and every other district which Ambajee formerly held in the subah of Ajmer, shall be restored to that chief. (2) That he shall remain in undisturbed possession of Gwalior, as well as all the Zillahs which had been entrusted to his charge by Mahrajah Patel. Lastly, that Ambajee should acknowledge Lakwa Dada as Sindia's Deputy in Hindostan, and that Mr. Perron, should also consent to serve under and obey the orders of the latter chieftain.

Ambajee and Mr. Perron have expressed their readiness to meet Ranjeet Sing and Emam Bakhsh at the city of Dig for the purpose of entering upon this negotiation, and the Vakeel of Lakwajee who resides at Fathgarh is of opinion that reconciliation will be the result of their meeting.

No. 168—Ranjit Singh seizes Lahore. Zaman Shah entangled in war on his west.
 News of ex-wazir Ghazi-ud-din at Kalpi. Negotiations with Jaipur
 Court about Wazir Ali drag on.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 12th September 1799.

I have the honor to acknowledge my receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 16th ultimo.

Since the 18th of February, when I suggested to your Lordship the practicability of establishing daks at Patiala, Amrutsar, and Lahore, a partial revolution has taken place in the Punjab, Ranjeetsing of Gujrat having forcibly possessed himself of the latter city. Yet I still think this measure might be accomplished should it hereafter become necessary, by the means of the friendly offices of Sahibsing, the Pateala Rajah who has great influence with the Sikh sardars in general and who, on all occasions, seems well disposed to promote your Lordship's views.

My last advices from Peshawar mention that Zaman Shah marched from Candahar, on the 22nd of July towards Herat, in order to oppose his brother Mahmood, who had assembled a considerable force in that province, aided by the support of the Kings of Iran and Balkh. This intelligence has been confirmed by my correspondent at Amrutsar, whose information is generally correct. I therefore, conceive there is little probability that the Durrannies will, this year, disturb the peace of Hindostan.

However, should Zaman Shah be enabled, contrary to expectation, to invade the Punjab at the conclusion of the present monsoon, I shall certainly be apprized of his designs there, in sufficient time, to establish a regular and expeditious communication between this station and Lahore.

I have every reason to suppose that the Ghazi-ud-din Khan, noticed in my public letters of the 11th of May, is the identical person whose violence and cruelty accelerated the downfall of the Imperial House of Timur.

This intriguing and dangerous man has not, as yet proceeded farther than the district of Kalpi, where he enjoys a Jageer, which was formerly granted to him by the Marhatta Government. One of his sons, named Golam Gilanee, who has resided in Farruckabad for several years past, left this city about a month ago, with his family, for the purpose of joining his father. In consequence of your Lordship's recent information regarding the conduct of Nasseer Ood Dowlah, I have deputed a trustworthy and intelligent person to Kalpy in order to ascertain the present designs of Gazi O'Khan. I hope this measure will meet with your Lordship's approbation.

I have the honor to forward, herewith the copy and translate (No. 1) of a letter which I, yesterday, received from my agent Enam Ulla Khan. My late dispatches of the 1st, 4th and 7th instant, will have satisfied your Lordship that the Rajah of Jaypour attended to your requisition, regarding Vizier Aly, with becoming deference and respect. I think it likely that Pertab Sing will, ultimately surrender the person of the assassin to our Government. But should the Rajah at any future period exhibit the least symptom of tergiversation, which, however, I have no cause to suspect, I shall without hesitation or delay, intimate that the dismissal of his Vakeel from Calcutta will be the immediate consequence of any breach of promise on his part, and at the same time advise the Rajah to reflect seriously on the effects which so marked a proof of your Lordship's displeasure would produce, as well in the opinions of his friends, as in the conduct of his enemies. I have to solicit your Lordship's indulgence for omitting to mention, ere now, that Izzat Aly had been separated from Vizier Aly.

Lakwa Dada has evacuated the district of Mewar, after exacting security for the payment of sixty thousand rupees from the Rajah of Shahpura, who appears to have acted a double part between this chieftain and Ambajee's commanders. The enclosure No. 2 contains the sentiments of Lakwajee on the present situation of his affairs.

The Vakeel of the Jodhpur Rajah lately apprized Lakwa that his master had sent bills for thirty-five thousand rupees, with an assurance that the residue of the balance due, from the Rajah, to Sindia, should soon be liquidated. This payment may be ascribed to the apprehensions which Bheemsing entertains of the machinations of his uncle Mansing who has, of late, been carrying on a private negotiation with Lakwa Dada for the supposed purpose of deposing his own nephew.

I do myself the honor to enclose the copy and translate (No. 3) of a private letter from my agent who accompanies the camp of Mr. Perron. I believe this officer is strongly inclined to espouse the interests of Lakwa Dada, whom he considers as the rising sun. My advices from Ambajee's army state that Mr. Perron has peremptorily demanded the instant payment of twenty lakhs of rupees, from the latter chief on account of Doulat Rao Sindia.

I have received the Khareeta addressed to the Rajah of Jodhpur by your Lordship (with copies of the same in English and Persian) requiring the seizure and surrender of Vizier Aly's person, but I hope, and believe, there will be no necessity for forwarding this letter to Bheemsing.

On referring to the margin of your Lordship's letter of the 16th of August, I perceive that No. 39 of my public correspondence has not been received at fort St. George, I therefore do myself the honor to transmit a triplicate of this address (No. 4).

I beg permission to offer my thanks for your Lordship's condescension in complying with my request in favor of Captain Paris Bradshaw. The business which induced this gentleman to apply for leave of absence having been settled by the agency of a friend, he is no longer desirous of repairing to the Presidency, though he feels equally grateful for your Lordship's intended indulgence.

No. 169—Should Wazir Ali's life be promised, as a condition of his extradition?

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 15th September 1799.

I have the honor to forward, herewith, the copy and translate of a letter which I received this morning from my agent at Jaipur.

In my official address of the 11th ultimo, I solicited instructions from your Lordship, on the supposition that Rajah Partab Sing might stipulate for the life of Vizier Aly, in the event of the surrender of the assassin's person to the English Government.

As this stipulation has already been hinted at, and may hereafter be tenaciously persisted in, I hope to be excused the liberty of repeating my request for instructions for the guidance of my conduct, as I really feel myself incompetent to engage in the discussion of this delicate subject with proper confidence, whilst unaided by the direction of your Lordship's superior judgment.

No. 170—Lord Wellesley commends Collins for his management of the extradition of Wazir Ali and asks him to go to Jaipur for the purpose.

FROM—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—COL. JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

16th September 1799.

I have received your letters of the numbers and dates noted in the margin—No. 64, 18th August, No. 65, 28th August, No. 66, 1st September, No. 67, 4th September, No. 68, 7th September.

I entirely approve the different measures which you have adopted for the purpose of engaging the Rajah of Jynagar to deliver up to the British Government the persons of Vizier Ali and of his principal accomplices in the assassination at Benares. If your ultimate success in this negotiation should correspond with the judicious manner in which you have conducted it, I shall consider you as having rendered a most important service to the public.

It does not clearly appear from anything which I have yet seen that the Rajah of Jynagar has actually agreed to surrender the person of Vizier Ali into our hands, either conditionally or otherwise. I am willing to hope however that you will be able to prevail on him to deliver up the assassin and his associates unconditionally. I think it, indeed, so essential that they should be surrendered without any stipulations in their favour, that although I consider the sum which you are already authorized to disburse for this purpose very ample, I leave it to your discretion to exceed it in any reasonable degree, provided you can thereby secure this important point.

But although I am anxious that Vizier Ali should be surrendered to us without any limitations, I do not mean to restrain you from promising that his life shall be spared, if you should find it impracticable to obtain possession of his person without such concession.

In the event of the assassin's being delivered up by the Rajah, the question next to be considered will be how he may be conveyed with the greatest security, from Jynagar to Cawnpore or Fath Garh.

For this purpose a strong escort will probably be requisite and it may also be necessary that it should proceed either to Jynagar or to the frontier of the Rajah's territories. In either case it will have to pass through the dominions of Dowlat Rao Scindea.

For these reasons, as well as because the proper management of such an affair requires, on other accounts, the exercise of great prudence and address, I think it necessary that you should in person undertake the conduct of the proposed escort.

The Commanding Officer in the Field will be directed to furnish at your requisition, such an escort, either from Cawnpore or Fath Garh, as you may deem necessary, and the Officer commanding the escort will be placed under your orders.

You will make the requisite application on the occasion for a free passage to Ambajee, or such other officer as may be acting for Scindea in the vicinity of Jynagar.

You may take this occasion, if you judge proper, to pay a visit to Ambajee; and if you should deem it necessary to proceed yourself so far as Jynagar, you may declare the object of your journey is to make my acknowledgments to the Rajah for his very friendly conduct in the case of Vizier Ali.

Mornington.

On the 16th instant orders were issued to the Commanding Officer in the Field to furnish the Resident with Dowlat Rao Scindea with such an escort as he might require either from the troops at Cawnpore or Fath Garh, and to place the officer who might be appointed to command the escort under the orders of Colonel Collins. Attested by Governor General in Council.

Kirkpatrick.

No. 171—News of Jaipur negotiations, Begam Samru, Lakwa and Perron.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 21st September 1799.

I have the honor to enclose the copy and translate of a letter from my agent at Jaipur to his brother Hussen Ali Khan, communicating some curious particulars respecting the behaviour of Vizier Aly.

It is some time since I first forewarned Hakeem Shewair, that whilst the assassin was confined in the city where his adherents could obtain access to him, everything violent was to be apprehended from a person of his revengeful disposition; and on this account I strongly urged his being removed to the fortress of Amber.

As this Minister must now be convinced that the above advice was well founded, I am not without hopes that the late conduct of the assassin will accelerate the attainment of the ultimate object of my negotiation at the Jaipur Court.

My advices from the subah of Ajmer, mention that Lakwa Dada and Jagoo Bapoo were appointed Sindia's deputies in Hindostan. The Maharajah has deprived Ambajee of the district of Mewar, and that it is said that Balloo Tantia means to reduce the power of this chief still lower.

Mr. Perron crossed the Jamna at the Ghat of Shergarh, on the 14th instant, with all his troops and Ambajee is preparing to follow him. It is generally believed that these officers intend to proceed to Saharanpore.

Begam Samroo appears to be in high favor at the Durbar of Dowlat Rao Sindia. She shortly expects to receive a Khelat from the Maharaja, and to be ordered to join and assist Lakwa Dada with her troops.

Your Lordship may have been apprized that nearly two thousand Pathans have lately purchased horses in the city of Farruckabad, and its vicinity with the view of engaging in the service of some native prince. If the result of my inquiries, which have been particular, may be depended on, these men are going to Hyderabad at the invitation of a Resalahdar in the employ of His Highness the Nizam.

No. 172—Collins characterises the Jaipur Rajah, and details his plans and forecasts of possibilities of taking delivery of Wazir Ali's person.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 25th September 1799.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 16th instant, and to express my gratitude for the liberal approbation that your Lordship has condescended to bestow on the manner in which my negotiation with the Jaipur court has hitherto been conducted.

Your Lordship justly observes that the Rajah of Jaipur has not yet actually agreed to surrender the person of Vizier Ali either conditionally or otherwise into our hands ; nevertheless from the tendency of several observations which have occasionally escaped Partab Sing and Hakeem Shewair in their conferences with Enam Ulla Khan, I am strongly inclined to believe that the assassin will ultimately be delivered over to me.

From all the information which I have been able to collect regarding the character of Partab Singh, appears to be a compound of pride, meanness, cunning and avarice. The last however so far predominates that I have no doubt he might be easily prevailed on by money to surrender the assassin unconditionally, were he not afraid of exciting general dissatisfaction amongst the inhabitants of the city of Jaynagar, who are such rigid bigots that they would not willingly permit the most noxious animal to be deprived of life, and on this account only am I apprehensive of the Rajah making stipulations in favor of Vizier Ali.

I beg leave, however, to assure your Lordship that nothing less than the most perfect conviction of the necessity of concession shall ever induce me to subscribe to any terms that would screen Vizir Ali from the punishment which he has so justly merited by the enormity of his crimes and possibly I may be able to avert this mortification from myself by persuading Partab Sing that the whole odium of surrendering the assassin without conditions might be thrown on his Ministers—an artifice altogether congenial with the natural disposition of a Hindoo Prince.

Your Lordship will perceive by the contents of the enclosure No. 1 that the confinement of the person of the assassin in the fortres of Amber has in all likelihood already been effected, and that Enaum Ullah is most probably now on his return to Fathgarh. In fact, his longer residence at Jaypur could have answered no good purpose, as he had not the means of tempting Partab Sing by the offer of immediate payment of the promised reward. At the same time I must confess that I do not think native agents should be intrusted with the final settlement of negotiations of this delicate nature, though their talents may be admirably well calculated for the smoothing of difficulties in the commencement thereof.

From the foregoing consideration, as well as from a belief that my presence might induce Rajah Partab Sing to a speedier decision than could otherwise be hoped for, I purpose with your Lordship's permission to repair to Jaypur immediately after the return of Enam Ulla Khan, whom I expect at this station about the middle of next month, and before that period arrives I may be honored with your Lordship's sentiments on the expediency of my intended visit.

As Partab Sing has by confining the assassin shewn an attention to your Lordship's requisition contrary to his former habits and the ancient usage of his family in similar cases, I humbly conceive there would be no impropriety in my paying him a visit for the declared purpose of making your Lordship's acknowledgments for his late friendly conduct, and provided I am furnished, previous to my departure from hence, with general credit on the house of some respectable shroff at Jaypur, I shall not be without hopes of terminating my negotiation in a manner entirely consonant to your Lordship's wishes.

I do not expect an opportunity of seeing Ambajee on my way to Jaynagar as this chief intends to accompany Mr. Perron to Saharanpur, but I can address a friendly letter to him expressive of my regret that his absence from Muttra precluded me the satisfaction I had promised myself in visiting him there. I shall likewise, in compliance with your Lordship's orders, apply to Lakwa Dada, who, as Colonel Palmer informs me, is the present Deputy of Sindia, for a free passage through the Maratha districts.

The Resident at Poona has apprized me that he has obtained a promise from Sindia of a letter to Lakwajee directing him, as his Naib, to require of the Rajah of Jaypur the surrender of the person of Vizier Ali into the custody of my agent or any other authorised to receive that assassin on the part of the British Government. I ought to receive this letter long before I arrive at Jaypur, and should Partab Sing behave contrary to my expectation, or show any signs of perverseness, I can make him acquainted with the purport of Sindia's instructions to his deputy, and at the same time suggest to the Rajah how well pleased Lackwa Dada would be to give them effect at my requisition.

I do not conceive that any native chief would dare to attempt the rescue of Vizier Ali, and even were such an attempt to be made your Lordship might rest perfectly satisfied that this assassin should never become the tool of any ambitious or designing man who might be desirous of disturbing the peace of the Government of our ally the Nabob Vizier. But as in affairs of importance nothing should be hazarded, without necessity, I shall, in the event of your Lordship's approval, apply for two troops of cavalry, two companies of sepoys and two light field pieces, which force would in my judgment be fully adequate to the service required.

No. 173—News of Perron being called to a strict account by Daulat Rao. Lakhwa's movements.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 27th September 1799.

I learn from my native agent with Mr. Perron, that Dowlat Rao Sindia has strongly enjoined this officer to establish the authority of Mr. Filose in those mahals which were sometime since assigned to him in *jaydad*

by the Maharajah, and that Ambajee had received similar orders respecting several Parganahs now subject to his authority; amongst the latter is included Jhajhar the collections of which are, at present, in the hands of Mr. George Thomas.

Mr. Perron has also been called upon to account for the revenues of his newly acquired Mahals in the subahs of Delhi and Akbarabad, and likewise to surrender to Lakwa Dada the forts of Agra, Aligarh, and Delhi. Mr. Perron in reply refers Sindia to the native accountants for satisfaction regarding the collections of those Mahals, but neglects to answer that part of the Maharajah's injunctions which relates to the fortresses.

Ambajee has joined Mr. Perron, and these officers are now on their march towards Saharanpore. The Frenchman avows an intention of invading the territories of the Sikhs, but my native agent assures me that he has quitted his Cantonments at Koel for the sole purpose of evading the execution of Sindia's late unpleasant commands. A battalion of sepoys, recently levied by Mr. Perron, left Koel on the 21st instant. He has lately entertained two Frenchmen who formerly held respectable commands in the service of Begam Samroo.

Lakwa Dada arrived at Kishangarh on the 18th of this month. It is said, he means to invest that fort which belongs to a Partab Sing who is related to the Rajah of Jodhpur. Kishangarh is only thirty kos distant from the city of Jaynagar.

I have the honor to transmit for your Lordship's information the copy and translate of a letter from my agent at Jaypur to his brother Hussæn Aly Khan.

No. 174—News of Perron, Ambaji, Lakhwa Dada, and Sutherland.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 22nd October 1799.

I have the honor to enclose the copy and translate (No. 1) of a letter from my agent at Jaypur to his brother Hussæn Ali Khan.

Although I exceedingly regret the tardy proceeding of the Jaypur durbar in removing Vizir Ali to the fortress of Amber, yet I by no means ascribe this delay to any sinister motive on the part of Partab Sing. On the contrary, I am satisfied that the Rajah out of consideration to his own interest is really anxious to deceive the person of the assassin.

Mr. Perron having changed or suspended, his design of repairing to Saharanpur, is now on his march towards Delhi. On the 26th of last month this officer was arrived within ten *kos* of that city, where it was supposed he meant to recross the Jumna—Ambajee always encamps a few *kos* in the rear of Mr. Perron's troops. This Maratha Sardar, whose present conduct is marked by timidity, demanded the assistance both of money and troops from Begam Samroo, but without effect. At the instance of Shah Nizam ud Deen Mr. Perron has possessed himself of a mud fort (Jaiyer) appertaining to the *jaydad* of his Majesty Shah Alam.

The King of Delhi, Shah Nizam ud Deen, Begam Samroo, Mr. Perron and the Rajahs of Jaypur, Jodhpur, etc., have received official letters from Doulat Rao Sindia announcing the appointment of Lakya Dada as his Lieutenant in Hindostan and requiring their support of and deference to the authority of that chieftain.

Advices from the camp of Lakwajee mention that several hundred horse and foot had deserted to this officer from Nana Ganesh and Mr. George Thomas. Lakwa seems desirous of detaching Ambajee from Mr. Perron, and for this purpose has addressed conciliatory letters to the former, proposing an interview.

Mr. Sutherland has quitted the vicinity of Jaipur. He arrived near Kishangarh on the 23rd ultimo, when he apprized Lakwa Dada that Mr. Perron had directed him to proceed to Poona. I understand Mr. Sutherland's detachment is ordered to march to Delhi.

With the permission of Captain Salkeld I herewith transmit for your Lordship's information a letter to that gentleman's address from Mr. George Thomas.

No. 175—The munshi of Collins ordered to insist on Wazir Ali's removal to Amber fort.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 4th October 1799.

I have the honor to enclose the copy and translate of a letter from my agent Enam Ulla Khan to his brother at Futygarh (No. 1).

Notwithstanding the assurances of Rajah Partab Sing, I shall be exceedingly displeased with Enam Ulla Khan, should he depart from the city of Jaipur before he has seen the removal of the assassin to the fortress of Amber. At present it appears to me, that my agent has been

too impatient to return to his family ; however, I shall not notice this to him until his return, when I hope he may be able to assign satisfactory reasons for his conduct.

I herewith transmit for your Lordship's information the copy and translate of a letter to my address from the person whom I deputed to Kalpy for the purpose of ascertaining the present designs of Ghazi-ud-din.

No. 176—News of developments at Jaipur in connection with Wazir Ali.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 6th October 1799.

I have the honor to acknowledge my receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 27th ultimo.

As Rajah Partab Sing has long been extremely desirous of obtaining European arms which are not procurable in this part of the country, the conditional permission which your Lordship is willing to grant to his agents of purchasing firelocks and pieces of ordnance wherever they may be got, cannot fail of having considerable weight and will, I doubt not, facilitate my negotiation at the Jaipur Court.

Neither Partab Sing nor his ministers of late mentioned the expectation of receiving protection and support from the Company in the event of the Rajah's incurring the resentment of Zaman Shah by surrendering the person of Vizir Ali to the British Government. I am, therefore, inclined to hope that the idea has been altogether relinquished ; but should the claim be renewed, my reply thereto shall be in exact conformity with your Lordship's instructions on this subject.

I do myself the honor to enclose the copy and translate of a letter from Enam Ulla Khan to his brother, by which it would appear that my agent is likely to be gratified by the removal of the assassin to Amber, previous to his departure from the city of Jaynāgar.

My Akhbarnavees at the Jaipur court, who is both vigilant and intelligent, has been most particularly enjoined to keep a watchful eye, during the absence of Enam Ulla, as well on the conduct of the Rajah towards Vizir Ali, as on the machinations of the accomplices of this assassin. These wretches, by assisting to deceive their master with false hopes, have established so strong an interest with Hakeem Shewair (Xavier de Silva Leitao) that I much fear it will be very difficult, if not impracticable, to bring them to condign punishment.

No. 177—Jaipur news. Collins preparing to march there. Shah Nizam-ud-din maltreated by the Delhi princes.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 12th October 1799.

I have the honor to acknowledge my receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 4th instant.

In consequence of your Lordship's approbation of my proposed visit to the court of Jaipur, I lost no time in applying to the commanding officer of this station for an escort of the strength specified in my public address of the 25th ultimo. At the same time I apprized Major General Sir James Craig of this measure and likewise informed him of the reasons which induced me to deviate on the present occasion from the usual mode of military requisition. The escort, I understand, will be formed and ready for march within three days. I therefore expect to commence my journey on the 15th of this month.

Late advices from ShahJahanabad mention that on the 6th instant, a party headed by several of the sons of His Majesty Shah Alam repaired to Shah Nizam ud Deen's gardens, seized his person and afterwards confined him in the fortress of Delhi. It is supposed that Shah Alam has been instigated to this act of violence towards Sindia's Officers, by the advice of Ambajee and Mr. Perron, who arrived at the capital, the latter on the 3rd and the former on the 6th current.

I herewith transmit for your Lordship's information the copy and translate of a letter from my agent at Jaipur to his brother Hussen Ali Khan.

No. 178—Collins asks for further instructions from Governor General about the Wazir Ali affair. Delhi news. Perron's movements towards Jaipur.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 15th October 1799.

I have the honor to forward a Khareeta to your Lordship's address from the Rajah of Jaipur.

Enam Ulla Khan assures me that Partab Sing will certainly secure the person of Vizir Ali in the fortress of Amber at the expiration of the Dasahra. But as the Rajah seems averse to allow of the removal of the assassin by forcible means, I think it not improbable that this measure

may yet be delayed some time longer. However, I feel no anxiety on this account, being perfectly satisfied that Vizir Ali will never be permitted to escape from his present confinement.

I have already apprized your Lordship of my apprehension that Partab Sing may stipulate for the life of the assassin, and also of my determination to resist every proposition of the nature so long as hope remained of obtaining the object of my mission without such concession. Should however the Rajah obstinately insist on this stipulation, I shall then use my utmost endeavours to avoid payment of any sum of money on account of the surrender of Vizir Ali's person. But as the Jaypur Durbar may assume pretensions to pecuniary reward even under the circumstance alluded to in the first part of this paragraph, I could wish to be honoured with your Lordship's instructions for the guidance of my conduct in the event of this unreasonable demand being made on the part of Partab Sing.

Shah Nizam-ud-deen has been released from confinement after suffering great personal indignities from the sons of His Majesty Shah Alam. Ambajee and Mr. Perron have marched from Delhi for the avowed purpose of settling the districts of Rewari, Narnoul, etc., which appertain to the *jaydad* of Mr. Filose, and it is conjectured that they mean to advance as far as Jaypur in order to have a meeting with Lackwa Dada.

By the active exertions of Colonel Russell, who at present commands at this station, my escort was enabled to march from hence this day to Muhammadabad. I shall also repair thither in a few hours, and purpose proceeding on my journey towards Jaypur early tomorrow morning.

Muzaffer Bakht will be left in charge of Captain Burrowes until further orders. All effectual measures have been taken to supply that officer with money for the subsistence of the prince, conformably to the directions which I heretofore received on this subject from the Honourable Vice-President in Council.

I have addressed friendly letters both to Lackwa Dada and Ambajee, announcing my determination to proceed to Jaypur without delay and requiring from them the necessary parwanas for facilitating my march.

SECTION 6

Collins visits Jaipur and secures extradition of Wazir Ali, the murderer of Mr. Cherry.

No. 179—News from Jaipur,—the Rajah invites Ambaji and Perron to meet him.
Lakhwa Dada levies ransom on Kishangarh.

FROM—LT.-COL. JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Mainpuri, 18th October 1799.

I have the honour to forward herewith the copy and translate of an arzee from my news-writer at Jaynagar (No. 1).

It appears from the Jaypur akhbar of the 13th current, that Rajah Partab Sing has sent Vakeels to the camp of Mr. Perron for the purpose of remonstrating against the depredations committed in his territories by the troops of Lackwa Dada, and the Machery Rajah. My intelligence farther states that the Jaypur Rajah has proposed an interview with Ambajee and Mr. Perron, who were at Rewari on the 11th instant.

My native agent in the camp of Ambajee writes that this chief has it in contemplation to repair to Kota in the hope of effecting a reconciliation with Lackwa Dada through the mediation of the Rajah of the country.

{Lackwa Dada has consented to raise the siege of Kishangarh on receiving payment of two lakhs of rupees. Bapoojee Sindia and Lackwa Dada of Antry are nominated *amils* of the districts of Saharanpur and Mewar, and Ghunba Dada is appointed to the charge of Mutra and its dependencies. These three Sirdars are the particular friends of Lackwajee}

On the 16th of this month I addressed letters to Rajah Partab Sing and his minister Hakeem Shavier apprizing them of my intension to proceed to Jaypur in order that I might have the honour of personally thanking the Rajah for his friendly attention to your Lordship's requisition for the confinement of Vizir Ali's person and also of explaining your farther wishes respecting the future disposal of the assassin.

I have the honor to enclose a transcript and translation of an article of intelligence from Kalpi relating to Ghazi-ud-din Khan.

No. 180—Ambaji and Perron marching to Malpura to join Sutherland's brigade posted there under Pohlmann. News of Lakhwa Dada and Zaman Shah.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Firuzabad, 21st October 1799.

I have the honor to transmit for your Lordship's information the copy and translate of a letter to my address from Enam Ulla Khan.

Advices from Kishangarh, of the 14th instant, mention Lackwa Dada's having upbraided Mr. Perron in forcible language for having omitted to reinforce him with the detachment lately commanded by Mr. Sutherland conformably to the orders of Sindia. At the same time Lackwa Dada insists on Ambajee's formal renunciation of the district of Mewar and expresses his entire disapprobation of Mr. Perron's avowed design of proceeding towards Kishangarh.

In the meanwhile, Ambajee and Mr. Perron are marching with expedition to Malpura (a town situated about fourteen kos to the south-west of Jaypur) where Mr. Sutherland's troops are now encamped under the command of a German officer of the name of Pohlmann.

Ambajee has been induced to relinquish his intention of repairing to the city of Kota, by the pressing instances of Mr. Perron, who promises to endeavour to effect a reconciliation between this chief and Lackwa Dada on honourable conditions. But should this measure be found impracticable, the Frenchman in this event proposes to advance with their united forces against Lakwajee in order to reduce him to the necessity of treating on equitable terms.

Letters have been received from Amrutsar by a merchant residing in Delhi, which positively assert that Zaman Shah arrived at Herat on the 17th ultimo, where his brother Mahmood had assembled a force sufficient to oppose him in the field; this intelligence is confidently believed by the Sikh chiefs and has caused general satisfaction in the Punjab.

The amil of this pargana which appertains to Mr. Perron's *jaidad* behaves with great attention, and Major John Hessing, who commands the fortress of Agra, has tendered me his services in a very obliging manner.

No. 181—News of Perron and Ambaji being encamped at Malpura. Sawai Pratap Singh prepares for fighting the Marathas. Ghazi-ud-din goes to Ali Bahadur. Zalim Singh of Kota mediates between Lakhwa and Perron.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Agra, 24th October 1799.

I have the honour to apprise your Lordship that I crossed the Jumna near Agra, yesterday morning. But as Major Hessing could not, with every exertion, collect more than eleven small boats for the use of the

escort, I have been obliged, much, however, against my inclination, to halt here this day, in order to afford time to the camp followers to pass the river. We shall pursue our journey towards Jaypur early tomorrow morning.

My last advices from the army with Mr. Perron mention that the troops of this officer, as well as those of Ambajee were encamped [near Malpura] about twelve *kos* to the south-west of Jaypur. And my intelligence from Jaynagar, dated the 21st instant states that Partab Sing had ordered his standard to be erected without the walls of that city, and that all the Rajpoot chiefs subject to his authority, were directed to join it without delay.

Lakwa Dada has consented to have an interview with Mr. Perron, but refuses to receive Ambajee Rao, unless the latter chief will pledge himself to abide by the terms of reconciliation proposed through the mediation of Zalimsing, the Minister of the Kota Rajah.

On the 11th instant Nabab Ali Bahadur advanced a few *kos* from his encampment to meet Ghazi-ud-deen Khan; and it was conjectured that the latter would repair to the Maratha camp on the succeeding day. I believe the name of Ghazi-ud-deen Khan's son who was apprehended at Calcutta is Nasir-ud-Dowlah,—this person was at Ferozabad about six months ago, when he said it was his intention to offer his services to the English Government to negotiate with Zaman Shah.

No. 182—Perron and Ambaji will soon meet Lakhwa in order to effect a reconciliation. Lakhwa jealous of French influence in Hindustan.

FROM—JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Pichunq, 27th October 1799.

I do myself the honor to enclose a *kharita* to your Lordship's address from the Rajah of Jaypur.

Rajah Partab Sing has sent me the necessary *parwannahs* for facilitating my journey, as have also Ambajee and Lackwa Dada. Nothing can be more friendly than the present professions of these chieftains.

My last advices from the camp of Mr. Perron dated the 22nd instant mention that this officer, and the two contending Maratha sirdars, had at length determined to meet unattended by their troops, at a place distant about twelve *kos* from Kishangarh, in order to settle their differences in an amicable manner. Each party having on various occasions acted with great duplicity and treachery, it would be difficult to form any certain conjecture on the result of this intended interview. I am, however, of

opinion that should Lackwajee consent to relinquish the command of the fortresses of Aligarh and Agra, Mr. Perron would in this event most readily agree to acknowledge that chief as Sindia's deputy in Hindostan and likewise compel Ambajee to submit to the same authority.

Lackwa, who has long viewed with a jealous eye, the increasing power and influence of the French officers in Sindia's service, will no doubt, feel great repugnance in allowing Mr. Perron to retain possession of those forts, but as his force is by no means equal to a contest with the troops of his enemies, it is likely I conceive that he will be obliged to accept of such terms as Mr. Perron may at present think proper to impose.

No. 183—Governor General orders Collins to secure Wazir Ali's person by every concession.

FROM—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—LIEUT.-COL. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

Calcutta, 26th October 1799.

It appears from your letter of the 15th instant that you entertain some doubt whether it was my intention to authorize the payment to the Rajah of Jynagar of the proposed reward for the surrender of Vizir Ali's person; in the event of such surrender being qualified by the Rajah with a condition in favour of the assassin's life.

It is therefore necessary to inform you that, although my wish is that Vizir Ali should be delivered into your hands without any stipulations whatever, you are not only authorized if you should find it expedient, to promise that his life shall be spared, but also to pay either part or the whole of the specified reward, even in the case of your being compelled to make such a promise.

No. 184—Collins enters Jaipur territory. Lakhwa Dada has met Perron and Ambaji.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Mahewa Ramgarh, 30th October 1799.

I have the honour to apprise your Lordship of my being now encamped within the territories of the Jaypur Rajah.

Hitherto we have met with no obstruction whatever on our journey, and I have every reason to believe that we shall arrive at Jaynagar without having experienced difficulty or inconvenience of any kind. The amil of this place has been particularly attentive and civil.

(On the 27th instant Lakwa Dada and Jaggo Bapoo had an interview with Ambajee and Mr. Perron at Moazimabad, a town situated midway between Jaipur and Kishangarh. After the conference, which lasted about an hour, these chieftains were seen to separate in apparent good humour with each other.)

The Vakeels who accompanied Mr. Perron on the part of Partabsing, have assured their master that he may rely on being called on for the balance of tribute due to Doulat Rao Sindia, whenever the Maratha Sardars have accommodated their differences, and this intimation has excited great apprehension in the Jaypur Durbar.

No. 185—Terms of the compromise made by Lakwa Dada and Jagu Bapu with Perron and Ambaji (representing Sindia). Perron about to leave Jaipur. Butterfield and Skinner go out of Perron's army.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Jaipur, 5th November 1799.

I have the honour to apprise your Lordship that the brother of Rajah Partabsing and Hakeem Shewair attended by a very splendid retinue, met me this morning, about two kos from Jaynagar, and accompanied me to my present encampment, which is within a mile of the city. Tomorrow the Minister will settle the ceremonial of my first introduction to the Rajah, and on the succeeding day I expect it will take place.

(The contending chieftains in Sindia's service have terminated their differences on the following terms. 1. Lakwadada is acknowledged, by all parties, to be the Maharajah's deputy in Hindostan, and the detachment formerly commanded by Mr. Sutherland is to remain with this Sirdar for the better support of his authority. 2. Mr. Perron retains command of the fortresses of Delhy, Aligarh, and Agra until Sindia's final determination on this disputed point be known. 3. Ambajee is to remain in undisturbed possession of Gwalior and all other districts which he held previous to the disagreement between Sindia and his family, but relinquishes Mewar, and every other pargunah taken from the party of the Bais during the late trouble,—this chief, in consequence of the above arrangement, has signified to Mr. George Thomas that he shall have no further occasion for his services after the 2nd of this month.

Mr. Perron, having received satisfactory assurances from the Vakeels of the Jaypur Rajah, respecting the liquidation of arrears of tribute due to Sindia's Government by their master, has announced his intention of returning to Koel without delay. Mr. Butterfield resigned his service and Mr. Skinner was dismissed from it some days ago.

I have the honour to transmit a duplicate of my last address.

No. 186—Collins describes his first interview with Sawai Pratap Singh and the arguments for and against the surrender of Wazir Ali.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Jaipur, 10th November 1799.

Rajah Partab Sing had appointed the 7th instant to receive my first visit, but the incessant and heavy rains that fell during the whole of the day obliged me to send an excuse. Indeed I was the more readily induced to do this from a belief that it would be agreeable to the Rajah and his Ministers. The eighth of the present month is an unpropitious day for business with the Hindoos, in consequence my introduction to the Rajah did not take place till yesterday evening, when my reception was honourable and satisfactory in every respect.

After the usual compliments had passed, I informed the Rajah that your Lordship had particularly enjoined me to express the warmest acknowledgments of gratified friendship for the confinement of Vizir Ali in the fortress of Amber. At the same time, I apprized Partab Sing that I was fully prepared to communicate your Lordship's further wishes, respecting the future disposal of the person of the assassin, whenever he would permit me to engage his attention on this subject.

Partabsing replied, he was at present so much occupied with his devotions, that nothing but the respect and friendship which he entertains for your Lordship, could have prevailed on him to admit of any visit of ceremony, or business, during the Jag Poojah. That on this account he should not be able to discuss the object of my mission for the next ten days, at the expiration of which he would return my visit.

As I knew this representation to be in some degree just, and was at the same time, satisfied that my negotiation might, in the interim, be carried on through the medium of Hakeem Shewair, I most cheerfully assented to the proposed delay, and only remarked, that the request I had to prefer on the part of your Lordship was so perfectly consonant to friendship, reason, and justice, that I had no doubt of its being readily and speedily complied with. To this observation the Rajah simply rejoined, that he should be always ready to conform to your Lordship's pleasure; after which the conversation became complimentary and unimportant.

Hakeem Shewair has been twice at my tent since my arrival at this ground. Our conferences have been long and confidential. He solemnly affirms that it is the opinion of all the Hindoo Ministers, at this Durbar, that the Rajah has already gone great, and unprecedented lengths, to

oblige Your Lordship. That the surrender of Vizir Ali's person, even on the condition of his life being spared, would be an act of degradation to this Government, but that the delivering over of the assassin to the English, without terms, would in the event of his being put to death, excite horror in the mind of every Rajpoot, and occasion such general disgust towards Partab Sing, as might be as fatal to the interests as it certainly would be injurious to the honour, of himself and family. Your Lordship will be pleased to bear in mind that the Hakeem apprehends his own disgrace, should my negotiation altogether fail.

I understand from good authority, that, since I came here, Partab Sing has expressed himself to the following effect. "Hitherto, I have acted towards Vizir Ali in strict conformity with the request of Colonel Collins. Nevertheless this gentleman is arrived at my court in a very expeditious manner. I imagine he wants something more to be done in this unlucky business. Well, I shall be very glad to see the Colonel, but I hope he will not require me to do that which would bring dishonour on my house."

Mr. Perron is arrived within four cos of Jaypur, with one battalion of sepoys, having sent three and his artillery towards Koel. It is supposed he has made this movement with a view of obtaining immediate payment of the arrears of tribute due to Sindia from the Jaypur Rajah. I understand, however, that this Frenchman does not purpose staying many days in the vicinity of Jaynagar.

No. 187—Collins describes a hitch in the negotiations for the surrender of Wazir Ali, and the diplomacy by which he overcame it. Local Hindu feeling opposed to the surrender of a refugee. The very valuable help given by Hakim Xavier DeSilva Leitao to Collins.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Jaipur, 19th November 1799.

Since my address of the 10th instant, I have had several conferences with Hakeem Shewair, and being convinced, as well from his information, as from the intelligence communicated to me by Enam Ulla Khan, who constantly resides in the city, that there was not the least prospect of obtaining the person of Vizir Ali unconditionally, unless I could establish a personal intercourse with some of the Hindoo Ministers and by this means reconcile them to my views, I took an early opportunity of proposing to the Hakeem, that a committee consisting of himself and other confidential servants of the Durbar should be appointed, by Partab Sing, to confer with me on the objects of my mission.

I assured this Minister at the same time, that I solely depended on his friendly offices for the success of my present negotiation, of which, he should, hereafter, receive an unequivocal proof, and also suggested to him that this measure seemed advisable as well for his own security as for your Lordship's satisfaction.

As far as I could judge, both from the countenance and expressions of Hakeem Shewair, he highly approved of this proposition, and I know, from very good authority, that he pressed it forcibly, and repeatedly on the Rajah, though without effect. Partab Sing's refusal was invariably the same, and to the following purport : You alone have been, hitherto, intrusted with the conduct of this unlucky negotiation, it is proper, therefore, that you should terminate it. No other servant of the Durbar shall interfere therein, nor be permitted even to visit Colonel Collins.

This peremptory declaration, on the part of the Rajah, having precluded me the hope of any other assistance than that which I might derive from the exertions of Hakeem Shewair, I determined on ascertaining, if possible, how far this Minister's influence extended. Accordingly I told him, in very explicit terms, that Your Lordship had been induced to send me to this court, in the expectation that the person of the assassin would be delivered over to me, in order that he might be punished for his atrocious crimes—that in the event of the surrender of Vizir Ali for this purpose, I would pay into the Hakeem's hands, three lakhs of rupees, to be distributed according to his own discretion ; and as I well know the powerful effect of money when properly applied, I had no doubt, assisted as I should be by his persuasive eloquence, of obtaining the object of my mission.

The Hakeem replied, that though money was certainly held in high estimation, and much wanted, at this Durbar, yet that no sum, however great, would prevail on the Rajah to comply with Your Lordship's wishes in their full extent. That the Bramins, who possessed too much influence over Partab Sing's mind, would never permit him to surrender Vizir Ali but on an assurance that his life should be spared, and that the Hindoo Ministers were, as he had already apprized me, altogether adverse to the measure.

I told the Minister, that had Your Lordship been timely informed of these sentiments, which in my judgment were irreconcilable with the principles of justice and sound policy, I should not have been deputed to this court, that being sensible, however, no arguments would avail against religious prejudices, it only now remained for me to bring the negotiation to a conclusion as speedily as possible, since, having no prospect of succeeding therein, I could not, consistently with the dignity of our Government, continue many days longer at this place. Consequently,

I had only further to request, that the Hakeem would at once distinctly specify the terms on which he conceived the Rajah might be induced to give up Vizir Ali. Here I took occasion to observe, that Sindia though also a Rajpoot, was clearly of opinion that the assassin ought to be delivered over to me without conditions.

The Minister said he was well aware that the Marathas would be glad to interfere in this business, at the requisition of Your Lordship, as it might afford them a plausible pretext for plundering the Jaipur districts, that nevertheless Sindia well knew, that were Partab Sing to acquiesce in Your Lordship's proposal, he would bring indelible disgrace on himself and family. That, however, he (Hakeem Shewair) would be responsible for the Rajah's consent to surrender the person of Vizir Ali provided I would promise in Your Lordship's name, that he should not be put to death, nor be confined in chains. Thus much, he said, Partab Sing would readily concede, merely with a view of conciliating Your Lordship's friendship, and that no force, whatever, could intimidate the Rajah into farther concessions. The Hakeem added that the assassin, after being exposed, at Benares, in a state of degradation, might be kept in perpetual confinement.

I observed, on this proposition that it must be a matter of great indifference to Your Lordship, whether Vizir Ali were confined in the English territories, or in the fortress of Amber, since the Rajah had solemnly pledged his word not to release him without your consent, therefore I knew of no advantage our Government could derive from the surrender of the assassin under stipulations that would totally defeat the purpose of justice, which in fact was the sole object of your Lordship's solicitude. That indeed this trifling concession might, eventually, prove beneficial to Partab Sing's interest, inasmuch as it would, most probably tend to convince the chiefs of Hindostan that a good understanding subsisted between our Government and his Sircar. That, I also, might in some degree, find my account in it, as the natives would give me some credit for having succeeded in my negotiation. But that this personal consideration became insignificant, when brought into comparison with the disgrace which I should inevitably incur, were I on any other than the most solid grounds, to deviate from Your Lordship's instructions. That previous therefore to any decision on this proposal, I should seriously consider whether the reasons, which the Hakeem had assigned for the Rajah's non-compliance, were of sufficient weight to satisfy Your Lordship, and would defer giving my final answer, until I heard in what manner Partab Sing could justify his refusal of your reasonable request.

At the same time, I desired Hakeem Shewair would bear in mind, that, in the event of my agreeing to receive Vizir Ali under restrictions of any kind, I should not think it incumbent on me to bestow the least

reward, on the Hindoo Ministers, to whom, I certainly owed no sort of obligation, but that it was my intention to make him (the Hukeem) a handsome pecuniary remuneration for his zealous services in the commencement of this negotiation.

Hakeem Shewair assured me, with much earnestness of manner, that Your Lordship would be perfectly satisfied with the Rajah's explanation of the motives which governed his conduct on the present occasion. He made no remark on what I had said respecting the Hindoo Ministers, and their rewards, but hinted a wish that the presents I might offer to Partab Sing, his son, and brother, on their visiting me, should be splendid and becoming their high rank. I thought it necessary to give the Hakeem satisfactory assurances on this last head.

Though I shall feel infinite mortification in submitting to stipulations which may not meet with Your Lordship's entire approbation, yet being thoroughly satisfied in my own mind that no better terms than those mentioned by the Minister can be obtained, I am resolved on accepting them with a good grace, provided Rajah Partab Sing expresses becoming regret at his inability to give Your Lordship more complete satisfaction.

Mr. Perron is encamped within a mile of my tents. Immediately on his arrival, he sent a Captain Lewis Smith with his compliments and a request, that I would permit him to pay his respects to me. I understand Mr. Perron has obtained security for his pecuniary demands on this Government. But not a rupee on that account will be issued from the treasury of Partab Sing, who always compels his Ministers and opulent courtiers, to answer every exaction of this nature, and hence the deference evinced by the Rajah for the opinions of these people, may in some measure, be accounted for.

As soon as I knew of the intention of Mr. Perron to repair hither, I took care to forewarn Hakeem Shewair that this officer, being a Frenchman, would use his utmost endeavours to defeat my present negotiation. The Minister assured me, without hesitation, that Mr. Perron's efforts, to this effect, would prove fruitless, as the Rajah never adhered to the advice of an enemy.

No. 188—Wazir Ali brought from Amber to Jaipur for surrender. Diplomatic obstruction. Collins has a private audience with Sawai Pratap Singh by the Rajah's request—further details of the conversation.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—EARL OF MORNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Jaipur, 26th November 1799.

On the 21st instant Partab Sing returned my visit. His behaviour was polite beyond my expectation, and he went away highly gratified by the compliments that were paid him on this occasion.

The assassin has been brought back to Jaynagar, but the inhabitants of the city have shown such strong marks of dissatisfaction at the Rajah's supposed intention towards him, that Hakeem Shewair has been obliged to obtain a written declaration from Vizir Ali expressive of his consent to accompany me on the terms proposed by this minister, namely that his life shall be spared, and no irons put on him. This declaration was procured by means of Waris Ali and Izzat Ali ; at least so my Moonshee reports.

Being however well aware that some deception had been practised by these accomplices, I judged it necessary to be very explicit with the Hakeem, and accordingly told him that in the event of my agreeing to receive the person of the assassin under restrictions, the same should be distinctly specified by me in a letter to Partab Sing, a copy of which would be transmitted to your Lordship, and that it also was my intention, in order to preclude the possibility of future misrepresentation, to apprise the different native chiefs with whom I was officially connected, of the precise terms on which Vizir Ali had been surrendered to the English Government.

In my conferences with the Minister I have several times attempted to expatiate on the horrid and manifold villanies of Vizir Ali's accomplices, but he always evaded the subject by saying that they were servants, and compelled to act in obedience to the orders of their master. The futility of this excuse might have been easily exposed ; but as Hakeem Shewair is the only person on whose assistance I can rely, I thought it would be wrong to persist in urging a point which evidently distressed and displeased him. In fact, these miscreants were the agents employed in depriving the assassin of his jewels ; it is not likely, therefore, that they will ever be allowed to return to their own country, lest they might reveal transactions disreputable both to the Prince and his ministers.

I had written thus far yesterday afternoon, when I received a message from Partab Sing, intimating that he was then prepared to grant me a private audience, and as I had, for several days, been extremely solicitous of this interview, I lost not a moment in repairing to the Rajah's Palace.

After the usual interchange of compliments I commenced the conversation by observing that as the Rajah was fully apprized of Vizir Ali's crimes, and as a recapitulation thereof must be alike painful to his feelings and my own, I should, at once, proceed to state your Lordship's wishes respecting the future disposal of Vizir Ali's person. I then told the Rajah that I was instructed to solicit the surrender of the assassin in order that he might be brought to condign punishment, and remarked that as this request was strictly conformable to the principles of justice and sound policy, I felt confident, that it would be readily complied with.

The Rajah replied that it was his most anxious desire to preserve, and even improve, the good understanding which had so long subsisted between the English and his Sircar. That with this view he had prevented Vizir Ali from pursuing his journey towards Kabul, confined him in the fortress of Amber, and given an assurance under his own seal that the assassins should never be released without your Lordship's previous consent. That in acting thus he had deviated from the invariable practice of his ancestors in similar cases, but nevertheless he was willing to proceed to still greater lengths in order to oblige you, even in direct opposition to the opinion of his most confidential Ministers. However, that as friendship was preserved and strengthened by reciprocal acts of kindness, he hoped to be indulged in two favours which he should propose on his part. The Rajah then said he would direct the assassin to be delivered into my hands, provided I would engage that he should not be put to death, nor be confined in chains. At the same time he expressed great concern at his inability to render your Lordship more ample satisfaction, and concluded with solemn protestations that further concessions on his side would, as being contrary to the customs and religious principles of his subjects, excite general disgust and bring indelible disgrace on his House.

I told the Rajah that though your Lordship respected the customs and religion of the Hindoos, yet I regretted exceedingly your not being timely apprized of the above objections to the unconditional surrender of Vizir Ali's person (as such prejudices, I believe, were peculiar to this country), for in that case I should never have been deputed to his Court, where, I feared, my presence had caused some trouble. Since, however, my return without taking away the assassin might be generally misconstrued to his (Partab Sing's) disadvantage, and since I was enjoined by your Lordship to shew him becoming attention and respect, I would consent out of deference to his (the Rajah's) particular interest, that the life of the assassin should be spared, and his punishment commuted into perpetual imprisonment without chains.

The Rajah, both in words and manner, evinced great satisfaction at this concession, and assured me that the person of Vizir Ali should be given into my custody in the course of a few days. I did not, however, suffer this subject to drop here, for as I knew, from good authority, that several proposals had been brought forward at the Durbar by the Hindoo Ministers, respecting the future treatment of the assassin, I embraced the opportunity then afforded me to request that the Rajah would bear in mind that Vizir Ali must not expect to meet with any other indulgence than had been already specified; and Partab Sing candidly acknowledged that nothing more could, in reason, be required.

After this business had been fully discussed, the Rajah began a long and energetic discourse, in which he described, with much feeling the

oppressions and injuries that his subjects daily sustained from the rapacity and injustice of the Maratha Chieftains, and concluded his speech with affirming that it was the earnest desire of himself, and several other Rajpoot Sardars, to form an alliance with the Honourable Company. The Rajah at the same time expressed a hope that he should obtain your Lordship's protection by means of my friendly offices.

I reminded Partab Sing that Enam Ulla Khan, by my orders, had already informed him that I was not authorized by your Lordship, to enter upon any subject of importance, which involved matters foreign to the object of my present mission, consequently he must not be displeased that I now declined making any reply to his last propositions. The Rajah then said he would write to your Lordship, and requested of me to forward his letter, to which I assented.

Mr. Perron left this place on the 22nd instant. Previous to his departure he again waited on me, and proposed, with great civility of expression, that I should return to Fathgarh by the way of Koel; but I did not acquiesce therein; that route being somewhat circuitous.

No. 189—Collins informs the Governor General about the success of his mission to Jaipur, and gives details of how he secured the surrender of Wazir Ali.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Kanauta, 2nd December 1799.

Since my last address of the 26th ultimo, the object of my mission had nearly been defeated by propositions which ought not to have been brought forward after the final agreement that had taken place between Partab Singh and me. These, however, did not proceed from any [ill will] on the part of the Raja, but are to be imputed to the ferocity of the assassin aided by the obstinacy and weakness of the Hindu ministers.

Vazir Ali having peremptorily declared that whilst he had life no one should deprive him of his sword, this bravado so far intimidated the Jaipur Durbar that a large majority in full council determined on insisting that he should be permitted to wear arms after his surrender.

It was also generally noted that as the stipulation respecting the perpetual imprisonment of Vazir Ali's person, by the English, was highly derogatory to the honor of their Sarkar, no mention thereof should be made in any letter which I might think proper to address to Partab Singh. Accordingly the foregoing ridiculous proposals were strenuously insisted on by Dinaram Bohra and Raichand Dewan in a visit which they paid me on the 29th ultimo.

It would tire Your Lordship were I to detail every particular during our conference, which lasted above two hours. I shall therefore simply state that refuting their arguments and rejecting their entreaties, I dismissed these men with an assurance that if the obnoxious propositions were persisted in I should immediately quit Jaipur without taking personal leave of the Raja. This declaration, and the sending of my *pesh-khemah* produced an instantaneous change in the language of the Hindu ministers, and Hakim Shewair, who had been excluded from their Council, was earnestly desired to give me full satisfaction on the above points.

These events occurred on the 28th, 29th and 30th of last month. Yesterday I took my leave of Raja Partab Singh, and at one o'clock this morning the assassin was brought to our camp, unarmed and unattended by any of his own people. He was immediately put under strict confinement and a few hours after conveyed to this place which is distant about nine miles from Jainagar.

Having been obliged to leave Inamulla Khan in the city in order to settle some money concerns, it will not, I fear, be possible for me to march from hence tomorrow. One part of Inamulla's business is to pay Hakim Shewair ten thousand Jaipur sikka-rupees in remuneration of his zealous endeavours to promote the success of my negotiation. This reward is certainly very liberal, but I trust it will not be deemed extravagant, although the exertion⁹ of the Hakim are solely ascribable to interested views, since in transactions of this nature services, not motives, should, I humbly conceive, be principally considered.

I have not yet taken any regular accounts; nevertheless I have reason to believe that the whole expense attending my mission to the Jaipur Court including the above sum and presents of every denomination to Raja Partab Singh, his relatives and ministers, will not exceed the total amount of thirty-five thousand Jaipur sikka rupees.

I herewith transmit copies, in English and Persian, of a letter to Raja Partab Singh in which the conditions of the surrender of Vazir Ali are distinctly specified together with transcripts of a circular letter addressed to my native correspondents on the same subject, No. 1, 2.

No. 189A—Enclosure.

*Letter written by J. Collins to Partab Singh, the Raja of Jaipur,
on 28th November 1799.*

After usual compliments.

Though it be contrary to the laws and maxims of every European State to spare the life of an assassin, nevertheless as you have represented that it is incompatible with the honor of your house and repugnant to your feelings to surrender any person who sought protection in your dominions for the purpose of being put to death, His Excellency the Governor-General departing in the present instance from the established customs of his own country in consideration of the amity, which has so long subsisted between the Company's Government and this Sarkar, consents to spare the life of the assassin and to commute his punishment into perpetual imprisonment without chains. Rest perfectly satisfied that no deviation shall occur in this agreement which will shortly be ratified under the seal of His Excellency the Governor-General.

No. 190—Collins informs the Governor General of the visit of Dinaram Bohra to see Wazir Ali in order to reassure the public of the Jaipur State that the terms of the agreement were being fully adhered to.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Dausa, 5th December 1799.

I have the honour to enclose copies and translates of articles of intelligence respecting Zaman Shah, the authenticity of which may, I think, be relied on.

On the 3rd instant Dinaram Bohra was deputed to our camp by Partab Singh, with a request, that he might be permitted to see Vazir Ali. The Bohra assured me, though the Raja was perfectly convinced in his own mind that I should strictly adhere to the terms of our recent agreement, yet still, in order to satisfy the inhabitants of the city, he was extremely desirous that one of his own Sardars might be enabled to make an exact report of the present situation of the assassin.

I told Dinaram there could be no possible objection to his seeing Vazir Ali, provided he went unarmed and unattended by any of his own people; and these restrictions being readily assented to, Captain Pension accompanied the Bohra to the tent where the assassin was confined. Very little conversation, however, passed at this interview. Indeed

Captain Pension observed that Vazir Ali was evidently much shocked and distressed by the presence of Dinaram, which had lately betrayed him.

The Bohra who has no idea of good faith, seemed highly pleased when he found that the assassin was neither confined in chains nor deprived of the necessities of life, and he went away in perfect good humour, after receiving from me the customary presents.

Yesterday morning we pursued our journey and this day arrived at the present ground, which is distant about seventeen kos from Jainagar. It is not my intention to halt again until the escort have crossed the Jumna.

I herewith transmit a list of the presents which I received during my residence at Jaipur. Exclusive of the articles therein detailed Raja Partab Singh gave me a plain *talwar*, which he desired I would wear as well for his sake, as on account of its having formerly belonged to his grand-father, Jai Singh Sawai. As I conceive a present of this kind ought not to be exposed to public sale, I shall, with Your Lordship's permission, send it to Calcutta by the first convenient opportunity.

I think it incumbent on me to assure Your Lordship that I have every reason to be satisfied with the personal attentions which I met with from Partab Singh and his ministers. When I took leave of the Raja his kindness and condescension were so marked as to attract the particular notice of every gentleman who accompanied me on this occasion.

No. 190A—Enclosure.

Substance of a letter written to Syed Yusuf Ali Khan by the son of Atmaram, Dewan to the Nawab Wafadar Khan, and brought from Peshawar by the Kasids of Colonel John Collins, dated the 5th of Jamadi-ussani or 4th of November 1799.

His Majesty, asylum of the world, having arranged the country of Khorasan, has taken up his residence of Kandahar. By the letters of the Dewan it is understood that the king has made choice of that place for this winter, and will accordingly this year remain at Kandahar.

No. 190B—Enclosure.

Substance of a letter from Mohi-ud-din, merchant of Amritsar, brought to Yusuf Ali Khan by the Kasids of Colonel John Collins.

Certain accounts are received that the Shah is arrived at Kandahar and that he will continue there during this year, because he is not wholly at ease in respect to his brother Mahmood Shah and Baba Ali Khan. As I know this news to be true, you may safely write to the Colonel.

No. 191—Collins informs the Governor General that the Jaipur Raja has sent Hakim Xavier along with some troops to accompany him up to Fathgarh. He also adds that he had sent a circular letter to Daulat Rao Sindhia and other Princes in Rajputana acquainting them with the terms on which Wazir Ali had been surrendered to the English.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Wer, 9th December 1799.

I have the honour to apprise Your Lordship of my arrival in the vicinity of Wer, a city subject to the authority of Ranjit Singh, Rajah of Bharatpur.

Our march through the Jaipur territories was unattended by any unpleasant occurrence, the inhabitants of the country having been extremely civil to our people, though they frequently censured Partab Singh on account of his behaviour towards Vazir Ali.

Hakim Shewair joined me at Dausa, in the evening of the 5th instant, with two hundred sepoys and one hundred horse. It seems this minister has been directed to accompany me as far as Fatehgarh, and though it was my earnest entreaty that he would go back from hence, yet he obstinately insisted on attending me to Agra. I conjecture, from some hints which he has given, that the Hakim feels reluctant in returning to Jainagar, as Your Lordship has not yet ratified the agreement respecting Vazir Ali. The Jaipur troops always keep at a respectable distance from our line.

The inhabitants of Jainagar have not yet recovered their former good humour. Amongst other infamous reports which are circulated in the city to the prejudice of Partab Singh's character, it is confidently asserted that he sold Vazir Ali to the English for five lakhs of rupees. The Maratha Chieftains have, likewise, been very free in their abuse of the conduct of the Jaipur Durbar on the present occasion. But though the Maharaja be fully informed of their reproaches, yet he by no means regrets the concessions which he has made, and his polite attentions towards me are unremitting. It is only two days since he sent me his picture by an express *shooter sawar* [camel-rider].

I omitted to mention to Your Lordship in my dispatch of the 2nd instant, that my address to Partab Singh, and the circular letter for my native correspondents specifying the conditions of Vazir Ali's surrender, were read and explained to the Raja by Rai Ratan Lal, on my last visit to the Jaipur Durbar. The Maharaja approved of the contents; and only requested that he himself might be permitted to forward my letters to Daulat Rao Sindhia, Bhim Singh, etc., etc. I readily assented to this proposal, knowing it would always be in my power to send duplicates.

No. 191A—Enclosure.

Copy of a circular letter addressed to Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia, Bhim Singh, etc. etc. Written on the 28th of November 1799.

After usual compliments.

The infamous Vazir Ali of whose atrocious conduct you are fully informed, having taken refuge in Jainagar, His Excellency the Governor General thought proper to depute me to the Jaipur Durbar from the expectation that Raja Partab Singh, in consideration of the amity which has so long subsisted between the Hon'ble Company and this Sarkar, would deliver over to me the person of the assassin in order that he might suffer death for his enormous crimes. Raja Partab Singh, however, having represented that it was inconsistent with honour of his house, and repugnant to his feelings to surrender any person who had sought protection in his dominions for the above purpose, the Governor-General, influenced by his friendship for the Maharaja, has been prevailed on to spare the life of the assassin and to commute his punishment into perpetual imprisonment without chains. It being, however, contrary to the well-known laws of Europe to spare the life of any assassin, I thought it necessary to give you the above explanation, in order that you might fully understand that the Governor-General has, in the present instance, been induced to deviate from our established customs solely out of regard to Partab Singh.

No. 192—Collins informs the Governor General about the special attention paid to him by Perron, who was thinking of relinquishing the service of Sindhia.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Shah Daura [? Dhorra], 14th December 1799.

I have the honour to apprise Your Lordship of my having this morning crossed the Jumna near Agra. The passage of the escort was unattended with any difficulty or delay as a sufficient number of boats had been prepared for the occasion by order of Mr. Perron.

This officer has earnestly entreated me to solicit Government for a passport, authorizing him to repair to Lucknow on his private concerns, with permission to return to Koil should he think proper. The marked attention which I have uniformly met with, as well from Mr. Perron as from his *amils* and officers, during my present journey, induces me to take the liberty of submitting his wishes to Your Lordship's consideration.

It is generally believed that he has made his arrangements with Colonel Sutherland and Major John Hessian, with a design of relinquishing, for ever, the service of Daulat Rao Sindhia.

My private agent at Delhi writes that a Rohilla who has assumed the name of Gulam Kadir Khan, has assembled about twelve thousand Pathans, with which force he lately defeated five thousand Marathas commanded by Ramchand, and on the 5th instant took possession of the fortress and city of Saharanpur. My intelligence from Koil further states that the impostor has been joined by Bhambu Khan, and several Sikh and Gujar Sardars. It appears, however, by advices from the court of Lakwa Dada, that this Chieftain has adopted vigorous measures to expel the Pathans from the district of Saharanpur.

The principal part of Ambaji's force is at present employed in the reduction of Seondha, one of the strongest forts now subject to the authority of the Rajah of Datia. Ambaji's troops have already sustained considerable loss in conducting this siege. Amongst the list of killed is the name of Mr. Bellasis, who was formerly an Officer of Engineers on the Bengal Establishment.

Yesterday evening I took a friendly leave of Hakim Shewair (Xavier de Silva), who purposes staying some days in the vicinity of Agra. Tomorrow morning we shall pursue our march towards Fathgarh.

No. 193—Collins reports to the Governor General his unmolested and unimpeded return from his mission to Jaipur.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp near Ghior, 19th December 1799.

I have the honour to apprise Your Lordship of my arrival within the territories of His Excellency the Nawab Vazir.

Our march from Jaipur to this place has never once been molested or impeded; on the contrary we have, everywhere, experienced the utmost civility and attention from the different *amils*.

I expect to arrive at Fathgarh on the 23rd instant, and conceiving it may not be Your Lordship's intention to permit the assassin to remain any time in these parts, I could wish to be honored with instructions regarding the future disposal of his person.

Begam Samroo has moved towards Saharanpur with four battalions of sepoys. This force is to be joined by several of Mr. Perron's corps and a large body of Maratha cavalry in order to act against the Pathans. Lakwa Dada seems well aware that if the insurgents be not speedily crushed, they must soon be reinforced by considerable numbers of their own sect. Indeed the Rohillas are hastening to their assistance from all parts of the country.

No. 194—Collins acquaints the Governor General with the active zeal and unremitting vigilance shown by the various officers and their subordinates who accompanied him to Jaipur to take charge of Wazir Ali. He also encloses an account of the seizure of that person by the Jaipur Darbar.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 23rd December 1799.

I have the honour to apprise Your Lordship of my arrival at this station in charge of the prisoner Vazir Ali.

I should deem myself ungrateful were I to omit expressing my obligations to Captain Brown and the officers of his detachment, for their active zeal and unremitting vigilance from the commencement of my journey to the present period.

During the whole of the march from the Jaipur territory, an European officer remained day and night within the tent of the assassin and though this duty could not but be unpleasant to the feelings of any gentleman, still regard for the public service induced the most ready and cheerful compliance therewith. The officers of my escort took their turn of this guard.

The duties of the non-commissioned and privates' turn were necessarily severe on account of the strict attention that has all along been observed in securing the person of the prisoner; influenced, however, by the example of their officers, they have on every occasion evinced an alacrity highly deserving of commendation. Your Lordship, I trust, will excuse my mentioning about the spirited conduct in a corps which has indeed at all times been distinguished for its merits. The day on which Vazir Ali was brought into camp the artillery-men waited on Captain Butler, their Commanding Officer, to request they might be permitted to mount two sentinels every night at the prisoner's tent, that being in their opinion, the post of danger and consequently the post of honor,

Accordingly, the matrosses, though only ten in number, constantly furnished two sentries for this duty until the return of the detachment to Fathgarh.

I have the honour to enclose an authentic account of the seizure of Vazir Ali's person by the Jaipur Darbar.

No. 194A—Enclosure.

An account of the seizure of Wazir Ali's person by the Jaipur Darbar.

On the evening of the 1st December, 1799, about eight o'clock, Dinaram Bohra repaired to the habitation of Vazir Ali and told him that, in consequence of Raja Partab Singh's absolute refusal to comply with the requisition of the English Government Colonel Collins had left the city, threatening to invade the Jaipur territories with a large force. That the Rajputs being ignorant of the arts of war as practised by Europeans, and as he (Vazir Ali) must have acquired some knowledge thereof in the several conflicts which he lately had with them, the Maharaja with a view of obtaining some information on this head, and, likewise, of adjusting the account of the jewels, had requested his (the assassin's) immediate attendance in the palace. At the same time Dinaram declared that, in the event of war Vazir Ali would have the command of a considerable body of troops to act against the English. Izzat Ali said that the night being somewhat advanced, his master would defer an interview with the Maharaja till the next day. On which the Bohra angrily observed he was sorry that Partab Singh should be so inconsiderate as to sacrifice his own interests, and excite the resentment of the English, for a person who, he feared, would at last prove ungrateful, an event which seemed too probable from his (Izzat Ali's) refusal of the Maharaja's very reasonable and urgent request.

Vazir Ali, moved by the foregoing observation, immediately set off with the Bohra to the Raja's palace accompanied by Sadulla Khan, his father-in-law, and Izzat Ali.

Dinaram took the assassin by an unfrequented road to avoid the observation of the people in the city. This procedure induced Vazir Ali to ask where the Bohra was conducting him. Dinaram answered that Partab Singh was expecting him in the Badal Mahal, where all secret conferences were held in order that their conversation might not be overheard and divulged. When the party reached the Badal Mahal, Lalji, the Raja's foster-brother, came in a hurrying manner, and intimated that the Maharaja waited for Vazir Ali in one of the private apartments, to which place they must all follow him unarmed. At the same time he

laughingly said that they had no occasion for weapons, since their enemy (Colonel Collins) was gone. Accordingly every person gave up his arms, the assassin excepted, who insisted on retaining a *katar* or poniard. When the party approached the gate, which leads to the innermost apartments, Sadulla Khan and Izzat Ali were desired to stay behind with an assurance that they should be called the instant the Raja would allow of their admittance. Vazir Ali was then led into a place, named *Kapat-dwara*, where the apparel of the Maharaja is usually kept. Here he was desired to seat himself till Partab Singh should be ready to receive him. Dinaram and Lalji placed themselves on each side of Vazir Ali, and the former engaged him in conversation until the latter was enabled by a sudden exertion to seize and secure his dagger. Vazir Ali demanding of Lalji the intent of this act of violence, who then informed that the Maharaja had agreed to deliver him over to the English on honourable conditions, namely that his life should be spared and his punishment commuted into perpetual imprisonment without chains. Vazir Ali earnestly entreated permission to speak to the Maharaja, and also to his followers, who, however, at this time were taken into custody by the guard at the gate. Dinaram said, his seeing the Raja or Izzat Ali, could now answer no good purpose, as he must prepare immediately to surrender him self to Colonel Collins. The assassin was detained in the palace until midnight, when, the inhabitants of the city being retired to rest, he was forced into a covered *rath* [chariot] by Thakur Fateh Singh, a Rajput remarkable for his strength, and who on this account had been selected to go with him in the carriage. The *rath* was escorted by fifty match-lock-men under the direction of the Bohra and Hakim Shewair to the English camp, where it arrived about one o'clock in the morning.

No. 195.—The Governor General highly praises Collins for his successful conducting of the extradition of Wazir Ali at Jaipur.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—LIEUT. COL. JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT.

Calcutta, 16th December 1779.

The temper and judgment with which you have conducted the late important negotiation at the Court of Rajah Partab Sing are entitled to my warmest approbation.

I am not in the least surprized or disappointed at the conditions which have been annexed by the Rajah to the surrender of the person of Vizir Ali. Those conditions appear to be founded on the erroneous notions of hospitality entertained by the Rajpoot tribes. The credit and influence

of the British Government have been abundantly manifested even in the qualified compliance of the Rajah with my demand. The purposes of criminal justice may in some measure have been obstructed by the restrictions required by Partab Sing; but all the objects of political security referable to the person of Vizir Ali have been amply attained.

I enclose a letter for Rajah Partab Sing expressing my satisfaction in the proof which he has given of his desire to cultivate the friendship of the British Government by surrendering Vizir Ali into your hands, I have further ratified the engagements which you contracted on that occasion. You will forward this letter to Jaynagar with all convenient dispatch.

I consider it to be extremely desirable that I should be enabled to bring Vizir Ali to public trial; as well as that I should be at liberty (if the measure should be judged expedient) to banish him, either without any formal trial, or in commutation of the sentence of death, which would most probably be passed upon him in the event, of his being arraigned before a Court of Justice. If, therefore, the conditions annexed to the surrender of Vizir Ali should appear to you not to preclude such proceedings and if you should have no reason to suppose that those are conditions so construed by the Court of Jaynagar, I desire you will immediately endeavour to obtain from Rajah Partab Sing his acquiescence in the measures which I have mentioned, repeating my assurances to him that in no event will the agreement concluded with him be in any degree infringed.

I think it proper as well from motives of respect to Rajah Partab Sing, as for the purpose of marking my satisfaction in your late conduct, to authorize you to retain and wear the sword presented by the Rajah.

I approve the manner in which you have remunerated the services of Hakeem Shewair.

No. 196.—The captive Wazir Ali to be conveyed to Chunar Fort and if possible tried publicly at Benares.

FROM—G. H. BARLOW, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—LIEUT. COL. JOHN COLLINS, RESIDENT.

Calcutta, 17th December 1799.

I am directed by the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council to acquaint you that it is his Lordship's desire that Vizir Ali be conveyed by water with all practicable expedition to the fortress of Chunar under a strong escort.

Sir James Craig has been instructed to furnish a proper escort to accompany Vizir Ali, appointing to the command of the escort an Officer on whose conduct he can place the fullest reliance, and instructing the officer to receive his orders from you. A copy of the orders to Sir James Craig is enclosed.

The Governor General in Council desires that you will particularly point out to the Officer, that he is not in any case to put Vizir Ali in irons.

You will instruct the Officer to deliver Vizir Ali, into the custody of the Commanding Officer at Chunar, who has been furnished with instructions regarding Vizir Ali.

The Agent of the Right Honourable the Governor General at Benares has been apprized of the intention of Government to bring Vizir Ali to trial before the special Court at Benares, in the event of no objection being made by the Rajah of Jaynagar to that proceeding; and you are directed to communicate as soon as possible to the Agent, the result of the reference which has been made to the Rajah of Jaynagar on that head.

No. 197—Collins points out to the Governor General that the Hindu ministers at Jaipur being still unreconciled to the idea of the Raja surrendering Wazir Ali to the English, he deems it inadvisable to refer to them any question regarding the public trial or banishment of Wazir Ali by the English.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 26th December 1799.

I have the honour to acknowledge my receipt of Your Lordship's letter of the 16th instant.

The warm approbation which Your Lordship has condescended to bestow on my conduct at the Jaipur court, affords me the most lively pleasure. At the same time my gratitude is excited by the gracious manner in which I am permitted to retain and wear the sword presented to me by Raja Partab Singh.

I am clearly of opinion that the conditions annexed to the surrender of Wazir Ali do not preclude Your Lordship the liberty of bringing that assassin to a public trial, nor even of banishing him without the previous

consent of the Jaipur Court, but as the Hindu ministers are not yet reconciled to the concession lately made to our Government by Partab Singh, I am perfectly satisfied that his acquiescence in those measures could not at present be obtained. And since the request would be admitting the Raja's power to decide on these important points I shall not address him on the subject till I am honoured with Your Lordship's further instructions.

No. 198—Collins acquaints the Governor General with the news received from Saharanpur, Jaipur and Datia, and adds that Wazir Ali is being sent under strict guard to Calcutta.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 31st December 1799.

It appears by my advices from Koil, dated the 27th instant, that Mr. Perron has received intelligence of a complete victory obtained by the Maratha Government over the Afghans near Saharanpur. My information states that the united forces of Begam Samru, Ramchand and Mr. Lewis Smith, attacked the Pathans, by surprize, early in the morning of the 24th and defeated them with considerable slaughter, after a sharp conflict which lasted about three hours. Mr. Smith's battalions have since retaken the fortress of Saharanpur, and dispersed the Rohillas, many of whom were drowned in their attempt to cross the Jumna.

Gulam Mahomed Khan, one of Zaman Shah's vagrant Vakils, arrived at Jaipur on the 18th of this month. In a conversation that passed between this person and Bakhshi Mitha Lal, he threatened the Jaipur Durbar with the high displeasure of his master on account of the late surrender of Vazir Ali to the English Government.

Lakwa Dada has prevailed on Ambaji to accommodate his disputes with the Raja of Datia on the following conditions. 1. The Rajah is to advance, immediately, one *lakh* of rupees to the troops of Ambaji. 2. The Datia Chief also cedes to the Maratha, districts yielding a revenue of four *lakhs* of rupees. 3. Ambaji, on his part, has consented to raise the siege of Seondah and to withdraw his army from the Datia country as soon as the foregoing engagements are fulfilled.

(Lakwaji has granted Ambaji permission to repair to Gwalior by the route of Kota.. The latter Chieftain promises to rejoin the former in

less than two months, but my private agent, who accompanies the camp of Ambaji, assures me that it is the intention of this Sardar to form a strict connection with Jaswant Rao Holkar and Nawab Ali Bahadur, with a view of counteracting the ambitious designs of Ballu Tantia and his partizans.)

I have the honour to apprise Your Lordship that Vazir Ali will embark tomorrow morning and proceed without delay to Calcutta, under the charge of Major William Lally, who has been particularly instructed to use every precaution to secure the person of the assassin, except putting him in irons.

No. 199—Collins informs the Governor General about the rivalry between Ambaji and Ballu Tantia. He further informs him that Ambaji professes an intention to visit Gaya and Benares, and adds that Perron has taken leave of absence for six months.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, January 12th, 1800.

Being informed that Izzat Ali had fled to the Maratha camp, near Shahpura, I immediately addressed a letter to Lakwa Dada, in which I strongly insisted on the impropriety of affording any protection to so notorious a criminal. At the same time I suggested that the surrender of this accomplice of Vazir Ali to the English Government in order that he might suffer condign punishment, would be deemed an act of justice, becoming his situation and character, and, as such, could not but be pleasing to Your Lordship.

The Saharanpur district is restored to tranquillity by the total expulsion of the Pathans and the flight of Gulam Kadir. This impostor has bent his course towards the northern hills, attended only by two hundred horsemen, all his other followers having dispersed.

(Hayat Mahomed Khan, the Nawab of Bhopal, has solicited the assistance and protection of Lakwaji. It appears that Jaswant Rao Holkar, and Balla Rao, Ambaji's brother, have excited disturbances in the Bhopal country, and that Lakwa Dada has promised the Nawab to chastise those chieftains.

The Vakil who resides at Sindhia's Durbar on the part of Ambaji, apprized his master that Ballu Tantia is altogether inimical to his interests.

and cautions him to be prepared to counteract the machinations of that minister. In consequence of the above advice Ambaji is endeavouring to prevail on Mr. George Thomas to return to his service, and seems the more anxious to engage this officer from an apprehension that Lakwaji means to anticipate him in his design.

Your Lordship will perceive from the enclosure No. 1 that Ambaji professes an intention of visiting Gaya and Benares. But since this proposed journey does not appear to be authorized either by Sindhia, or his deputy in Hindustan, I shall not apply for the required passports, etc., except with the express permission of Your Lordship.

My advices from Koil state that Mr. Perron has, at length received the positive commands of Daulat Rao Sindhia to deliver over charge of the fortresses of Delhi, Agra and Aligarh to Lakwa Dada.)

I have the honour to forward a letter (No. 2) to my address from Mr. Perron.

No. 199A—Enclosure.

- I. *Translation of a letter from Ambaji Ingle to Colonel Collins, dated 3rd of Shaban (December 31, 1799).*

After compliments.

When the Nawab Governor-General Bahadur was at Lucknow, it was at a time regarded by the Hindus with veneration, and I determined on sending my family to Kashi and other places of religious resort, therefore the Chief of Lucknow, John Lumsden Bahadur, according to my desire furnished me with passports through the Vazir's territories, a letter from himself to the Resident of Benares and others from Almas Ali Khan to the principal people under him in those districts of his which be in the way, together with several *chaprasis*; but on account of certain reasons my family did not then make use of that opportunity. Being now arrived at Kota my intention is fixed on going to bathe at Benares and Gaya, and as friendship is firmly established between us, I am, therefore, troublesome that you will favour me with a passport under the seal of the Vazir, according to the sketch detailed in the enclosed letter, from you to the Magistrate of Benares, Almas Ali Khan's letters to the *amils* of districts in the road, and also two *Chaprasis*, through Lala Makhan Lal who resides with me on your part. Should I set out, it will be speedily.

II. A rough draft of the passport required by Ambaji Ingle for his pilgrimage to Gaya and Benares.

To the Chokidars, ferrymen and people placed to take care of the roads and high-ways.

Whereas, Raja Ambaji Rao Ingle Bahadur with two or three hundred horse and foot, raths, palanquins, etc., is proceeding to bathe at Gaya, let him meet no molestation in the way on account of duties, and let him be passed in safety beyond your several boundaries, considering it incumben on you to supply a guard for him wherever he shall encamp.

Pay particular attention to this injunction and obey it accordingly.

A list of things and men accompanying him.

Raths	..	..	..	10
Camels	..	..	..	60
Miyanahs	..	..	..	5
Horses	..	..	..	70
People	..	..	..	300

No. 199B—Enclosure.

Letter written by General C. Perron to Colonel Collins, Resident with Sindhia.

Koil, 6th January 1800.

I have had the greatest satisfaction to be informed that you have reached Fatehgarh, in a very good state of health, at which I rejoice heartily and I sincerely hope that the mild season, which is now coming, shall restore it entirely.

I have the pleasure to inform you that after many solicitations from my part Mahadaji [? Daulat] Rao Sindhia has in fine acquiesced to my request for a leave of absence for six months, therefore I prepare myself to have very soon the pleasure of paying you my respects, because I know too well the generosity of your disposition, for not being convinced in my soul, that the manner in which you shall have the kindness to apply to the Governor General for my passport, shall be followed by a speedy success.

No. 200—Collins informs the Governor General about the disgrace of Hakim Xavier at the Court of Jaipur and forwards copies of his correspondence with the Hakim.

FROM—J. COLLINS, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 15th January 1800.

It is with extreme concern I inform Your Lordship of the disgrace of Hakim Shewair, who has been prohibited from appearing at the Jaipur Durbar, and deprived of his jagir, as well as of his military appointments, by the orders of Raja Pertab Singh. This sad reverse of fortune must be ascribed to the misrepresentations of the Hindu ministers. The enclosure No. 1 will give Your Lordship an idea of the base arts to which those men have resorted in order to accomplish the ruin of the Hakim.

I herewith do myself the honor to transmit copies and translates (No. 2, 3) of letters which I yesterday received from Hakim Shewair. The letter referred to by him in No. 2 is that which Sindhia addressed to Lakwa Dada directing him to require of the Jaipur Raja the surrender of Vazir Ali's person to my agent. This letter still remains in my possession, and was never made any use of, but on the following occasion when Dinaram Bohra and Raichand Dewan paid me a visit on the 29th of last November, they confidently affirmed that the Maharaja would certainly incur the high displeasure of Daulat Rao Sindhia were he to deliver up the assassin, Vazir Ali. In reply to this assertion, I desired these ministers would do me the justice to bear in mind that I had at no time introduced the name of the Marathas, in any of our conferences for the purpose of influencing the Raja's determination, but since they dreaded the effects of Sindhia's resentment in the event of Vazir Ali's being surrendered to me, I would submit to their perusal a shokah addressed by that Chieftain to Lakwa Dada, the contents of which might tend to remove all apprehensions on this head; and accordingly I gave Sindhia's letter to Dinaram Bohra.

Though few men possess greater command of temper than the Bohra, yet, in this instance, he expressed himself in violent terms accusing the Marathas of perfidy, and when, with a view of pacifying him, I said it was by no means extraordinary that Sindhia should be desirous of conciliating the friendship of so powerful a nation as the English, Dinaram instantly explained "I will take care to settle this business without the interference of any Maratha Chief."

In the following day Hakim Shewair strongly entreated me to give up Sindhia's letter to Raja Partab Singh, but I peremptorily refused, remarking, at the same time, that one moment's reflection could convince him of the impropriety of preferring a request which could not be granted consistently with the respect due to Daulat Rao Sindhia, and this observation seemed to satisfy the Hakim. That he should again urge me on the same subject can only be accounted for by his present distressed situation.

Mr. Perron has refused to deliver over charge of the forts of Delhi, Agra, and Aligarh, to Imam Bakhsh Khan (Lakwa's agent) conformably to the orders of Sindhia, and also evades the cession of those parganahs that he possessed himself of during the late dissensions between the Maharaja and his family.

It appears by advices from Shahpura, that Lakwa Dada has admitted Izzat Ali to a private audience, and obtained particular information respecting the conduct of the Jaipur Raja towards Vazir Ali.

Accounts from Malwa state that a detachment of Kashi Rao Holkar's troops, assisted by auxiliaries from the Peshwa and Sindhia, defeated the forces of Jaswant Rao Holkar, that were stationed in Khandesh, on the 16th ultimo. In this engagement* a battalion of Jaswant Rao's sepoys, commanded by an European officer, lost four guns, and was entirely dispersed. [*Probably Wm. Gardner.]

No. 200A—Enclosure.

Translation of an extract from the Jaipur paper of intelligence, dated the 10th of Shaban (7th January).

Hira Lal told the Raja he had incurred infinite blame by delivering up Vazir Ali, and that Lakwaji too said, "the Maharaja has not acted right". Raichand on hearing the remark [said] that it was all the doing of Hakim Shavier, that reproaches were written from every quarter, that Raja Ajab Singh of Bikaner who had concealed himself, did so because he feared the Maharaja would give him up also to the Raja of Bikaner, that in the journey to and from Akbarabad by Hakim Shavier the Maharaja was abused beyond measure, that every one spoke out without reserve; and that in fine he was an European and leagued with his own tribe regardless of the antiquity and honor of the Maharaja's house. On receiving this information the Maharaja ordered Madhu Rao Bhide to take an account of the articles of the medical department from the agents of Hakim Shavier, and to prohibit him from coming to the Durbar. Lalji Dhabhai was ordered to have the gate of the Hakim's house shut

and to prevent him visiting the Raja. The door of Kadir Bakhsh's house was also shut up, he being one of the *gumashtas* of Hakim Xavier, and direction given to keep both from paying their respects to the Raja, which injunctions were accordingly carried into execution.

No. 2093—Enclosure.

Translation of a letter from Hakim Xavier de Silva to Lieutenant Colonel John Collins.

After compliments.

I received your very kind letter together with the *Kharitah* from the Right Hon'ble the Governor General to the Maharaja, and on the 7th of Shaban (4th of January) wrote and forwarded my reply to it, which you will have received and perused. Indisposition deprived me for two days of the honor of appearing at the Durbar. Today I presented the *Kharita* to the Maharaja and drew his particular attention to it; he heard and understood its friendly import with considerable pleasure. I will obtain an answer to it and hereafter dispatch it to you without delay. Of the late novel occurrences this is one that the confidential Vakils of this Sarkar who had been with Lachhman Rao Anant to settle the point in reference, returned unsuccessful and everything relating to the failure of the negotiation was consequently discussed before the Maharaja when I arrived here. I trouble you with the particulars (by desire of the Maharaja) of what he commanded me to say on this subject, which your wisdom, disentangling intricacies, will perceive in the following detailed relation.

To the agents of the Maharaja, who went on business to Lachhman Rao Anant, the Rao made heavy complaints relatively to the affair of Vazir Ali, and plainly asked them, why the Maharaja sent Vazir Ali with Colonel Collins without requiring his advice who was controller of the whole country on the part of Daulat Rao Sindhia. From the Rao's expressions it is understood that on this ground it is clearly his intention to act hostilely. It was solely with a view to this consequence that I begged of you while you were here to give me Sindhia's letter, which he had addressed to Lachhman Rao Anant, but you refused to part with it on account of the delay about Vazir Ali. Now, as it is in consequence of that transaction that Lachhman Rao Anant threatens opposition, it is necessary to forward to me the letter of Sindhia in your possession and likewise for you to write to the Right Hon'ble the Governor General on the same subject and procure me a letter under his seal, addressed to Lachhman Rao Anant that on this head he may excite no disturbance. If you have any doubt as to sending Sindhia's

letter, let a confidential person on your part bring it here who, after having submitted it to the Deccan Chiefs, will take it back to you.

I trust you will soon favour me with an explicit answer on this subject and also that you will obtain the letter from the Right Hon'ble the Governor General, which with Sindhia's letter you will indispensably and speedily send me by a person from yourself that the Rao's suspicion may be removed, and the Maharaja's concerns with him assume the air of settlement as hitherto. Do not on any account delay or forget this business. All I have written is neither hearsay nor newspaper intelligence. It is according to what the Rao himself delivered face to face with the agents of the Maharaja; believe it to be true, unfabricated, and without addition or diminution. My friend, the Maharaja, having given a proof of the sincere friendship and firm union subsisting between both States, I have, therefore, considered the good or evil fortune affecting either the same and without reserve or ceremony disclosed all to you: accordingly then the intercourse of friendship demands, that earnestly observing a like conduct you satisfy my mind with a specific answer.

Consider me under all changes the well-wisher of both Sarkars.

No. 200C—Enclosure.

Translation of a letter from Hakim Xavier de Silva to Lieutenant-Colonel John Collins, dated Jaipur the 12th of Shaban (9th of January).

After compliments,

I formerly wrote to you particularly of matters here, the receipt of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General's *kharita* and of certain other things which doubtless have met your friendly inspection. You will make me happy by the favor of a specific answer to my requests. As to writing the Hindi book which you ordered, I had it finished and sent to you through Lalā Gopinath: when it shall reach you, I hope you will favor me with the acknowledgement of its receipt. Other unfortunate accounts of me which are among the new occurrences here will have appeared to you by the papers: this is the summary of them, that I am fallen into a singular and surprising difficulty by which I am seated without employment at home, which I merely write thus briefly for your information. But I have this hope from your favour that you will preserve, as hitherto, the channel of correspondence open, and that in whatever letter or *kharita* you send the Maharaja, you will by no means insert a sentence or word indicating a recommendation of me, for in this stage the mention of a syllable to that effect would in no shape be prudent or proper. It is well to continue to hope for the favour of the Almighty and to keep the intercourse by letters to the same effect as hitherto uninterrupted, and consider me in every situation grateful for your favour.

SECTION 7

Supplementary letters, mostly relating to Zaman Shah's invasion (1797) and the scare in Hindustan

[*Note.*—In this section I have collected some despatches which are wanting among the surviving records of the old Poona Residency and which were not included in the first batch of supplementary transcripts secured by me from the Imperial Record Office, Delhi. By the kind help of that office these have been now copied, but too late for insertion in their proper places in the chronological order of the papers, as the preceding six sections of this volume had been set up in type, corrected and passed for printing long ago, and it is impracticable to break the paging up now and make up the matter anew after adding these newly received documents exactly where they should stand.

The unavoidable inconvenience to the reader will, however, be greatly reduced if he follows the direction at the head of each of these additional letters and makes pencil notes at the respective places in the preceding sections where these new documents ought to have stood, to the effect "Next comes No. * * page * * " *Jadunath Sarkar, Editor.*]

No. 201, (after No. 8)—Deserters from the British army to be given up by Sindhia's generals.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—J. H. HARRINGTON, ESQ., SUB-SECRETARY.

Fathgarh, 2nd May 1794.

I am honored with your letter dated 25th ultimo enclosing extract of a letter from General De Boigne to Lieutenant Macpherson and conveying to me the commands of the Governor General in Council to endeavour to obtain the surrender of the deserters from the Company's troops who had taken refuge with Mr. De Boigne as well as any future deserters who may seek protection in the Mahratta Territories, without the conditional promise of pardon.

You will please to inform the Board that the deserters from the Artillery Corps at Anoopshahar have been delivered over by Mr. De Boigne to the persons sent by the Commanding Officer to take charge of them, and that I have written to Gopal Bhow, the Mahratta Commander in Hindostan requesting him to restore unconditionally any future deserters from the British Army who may escape into the Mahratta Dominions under his authority.

No. 202, (after No. 25)—Death of Peshwa Madhav Rao II.

News-letter from Sindhia's Camp, Jamgaon, 26th October 1795.

This morning after the usual occupations he (Dowlat Row) entered the Dewan Khana, where were present Bapoo Mirza, Bapoo Tantia, Bhow Bakshee, Bhow Farnavis etc. A paper of news from Poona and a letter from Jyajee Bakshy dated the 11th Rabi-us-sani (or 25 October) were presented ; they stated that the Peshwa being in his sleeping apartment in the third story, it happened that his foot slipped and he fell to the ground, by which accident he received a violent contusion on the leg, his back was broken and his senses totally failed him. Nana Farnavis stationed troops round the house and gave orders for the like arrangement at various places, ; particulars shall be mentioned hereafter.

On learning this news the Sirdars (Dowlat Row's) consulted together and wrote a letter to Monsr. Perron directing him to halt at whatever place he might have reached, in consequence of this intelligence. It is said that this event will occasion the Maharajah to return to Poona. Whatever particulars may transpire shall be duly communicated.

No. 203, (after No. 27)—De Boigne's Cavalry regiment purchased by the E. I. Company

FROM—W. PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Lucknow, 5th February 1796.

In obedience to your commands of the 18th ultimo, signified to me, by Mr. Sub-Secretary Harrington, I concluded with Mr. De Boigne an agreement for the transfer of his property in a Regiment of Native Cavalry, to the service of the Honourable Company at the rate of 400 rupees

per head for the horses including their furniture, tents, carriage and arms and accoutrements of the troopers. A complete return of the whole has been transmitted to the Commander in Chief and the Regiment received upon the Company's pay from the 1st instant.

No. 204, (after No. 203)—Ambaji Ingle visits Palmer at Cawnpore. The British Indian Government will remain strictly neutral in the disputed succession to the Peshwaship.

FROM—W. PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 14th March 1796.

On the arrival of the Commander in Chief at Cawnpore, I thought it my duty to pay my personal respects to him. While I was attending him at that station, Ambajee Ingle, a Sirdar of great opulence and distinction in the service of Dowlut Row Sindia, arrived at Bethoor on a religious intent of which he had given me previous notice, and requested an interview with me, having, he said, some material communication to make from Lakhwa Dada.

With the General's permission, I invited him to and waited upon him at Cawnpore, when he entered into a relation of the present situation of the Mahratta Government, the right of Bajy Row to succeed to it, and the determination of Dowlut Row to support him at all hazards.

Ambajee assured me at the same time that the Nazim of the Deccan, Ragojee Bhowsla, and Tookajee Holkar were solemnly engaged with Dowlut Row; that it was not probable any confederacy so powerful as this would or indeed could be formed in favour of the Minister's designs, but as the events of war are always uncertain, he wished to ascertain whether you would on any terms afford assistance to the confederates in the cause of Bajy Row if it should prove disastrous.

I told him candidly and at once that he must expect no assistance from you in any state of the present contest for succession to the Peshwaship; that you were determined not to interfere in quarrels with which you had no concern, and that no acquisition of power or dominion would induce you to avail yourself of the dissensions of your friends.

Ambajee admitted the justice and generosity of these principles and observed that a strict neutrality being your determination he might rely upon your not favouring the opposite party. Of this I gave him the most

implicit assurance, with which he appeared so well satisfied, that I am persuaded to obtain it was the real object of his enquiries, and that with such a powerful confederacy as Dowlat Row has formed he could not seriously desire our interference.

Sir Robert Abercromby was pleased to confirm to Ambajee, the declarations and assurances which I had made to him and he took leave with the greatest apparent satisfaction at the result of the interview,

The Commander in Chief, having expressed to Ambajee a desire to see the Taj Mahal and other celebrated edifices at Agra, received a very polite and cordial invitation, and Lakhwa Dada as soon as he was informed of the General's intention, sent orders to the Mahratta Officers on his route and at the city to show every attention and respect to which the General's rank and character entitled him and which their respective situations would admit, and I had the pleasure to observe that the General was well satisfied with the manner in which these orders were executed.

The Mahrattas have at length obtained possession of the strong fort and Pass of Narwar, surrendered to them by the Rajah for a Jagir in compensation of 50,000 rupees annually, after his family had been 1800 years in the uninterrupted possession of it.

This important acquisition will not only contribute to the stability of the Mahratta Power in Hindostan, but considerably facilitate its increase by giving a secure and easy communication between the northern and southern parts of their Dominions and a ready access to the countries of the Rajpoot Chiefs whose Governments it now seems to be the determined design of the Mahrattas entirely to subvert.

On my return to this place yesterday I received letters from Dowlat Row and his principal Ministers Ballooba Tantia and Bhow Bakshy, requesting me to repair to the camp of Lakhwa Dada where they hoped soon to meet me or from whence they would desire me to proceed to Ujjain if Dowlat Row should be much longer detained in the Deccan. As you have been pleased to give me permission to visit the officers at the head of Sindia's Government in Hindostan occasionally and to comply with Dowlat Row's application for my proceeding to Ujjain, I shall set out for Lakhwa's Camp as soon as I receive an answer from him to my enquiry of the route I am to take.

If any circumstances should make it appear to you improper that I should attend the Mahratta Government, at this time, your orders will reach me before I can arrive at Lakhwa's Camp.

I believe that Dowlat Row's motive for desiring my attendance at this time is to prevent a diminution of his consequence in the Deccan by an appearance of interruption to the connection subsisting between him and our Government from the long absence of the Resident.

No. 205 (after No. 204)—Political moves among the Maratha chiefs. Nana Fadnis in perplexity.

FROM—Wm. PALMER, RESIDENT WITH D. R. SINDHIA,

TO—Governor General in Council.

Fathgarh, 20th March 1796.

A letter which I received this morning from Ganpat Rai my Mutasaddy at Dowlat Row's Durbar, appearing to contain clear and authentic information of the ultimate resolves of the leaders of the contending parties, respecting a successor to the late Paishwa, I have judged it incumbent on me to transmit to you a copy of it which I have the honour to enclose.

I believe that the intimation desired by Sindia's Ministers from Sir Charles Malet to Nana Farnavees of your disapprobation of his designs, is rather expected to perplex his mind than to influence his conduct, as he seems to have placed his entire reliance for personal security and the continuance of his power on the minor succession which he must now maintain at all hazards.

(The co-operation of force established between Dowlat Row Sindia and Aly Bahadur in Hindostan has intimidated the numerous independent Chiefs of Rajpootana from forming any confederacy to disturb the Mahratta power or possessions during the dissensions at Poona, and will in all probability soon produce the complete subjection of Bundelkhand to the authority of Aly Bahadur and of the other Rajpoot Governments to that of Sindia.)

No. 206 (after No. 30)—Begam Samru restored to power by George Thomas.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—PERSIAN TRANSLATOR TO GOVERNMENT.

Fathgarh, 21st July 1796.

Be so good as to inform Sir John Shore, that I have received authentic intelligence from my agent at Delhi, that the Begam Zeb-un-nisa has recovered her authority in her Jageer, and has put her son-in-law Zafar Yab Khan in confinement.

The revolution in favour of the Begum has been principally effected by an Englishman named George Thomas, who was formerly in her

service and high in her confidence, but left her employ a few years since in consequence of some misunderstanding, and engaged in the Mahratta service. At this time he is in command of a battalion of Sepoys under the orders of the Soubahdar of Delhi. It seems that he marched with his corps secretly to Sardhana where he was joined by some troops in the Begam's interest and with whom the plan for her restoration had been previously concerted, and to which it is supposed that the Mahratta Sardars were privy and gave encouragement.

I do not think this event of sufficient importance in itself or by the relation in which the Begam stands to our Government to authorize my communication of it by a public address. But the interest which I know the Governor General to take in the Begam's prosperity, makes me conclude that the intelligence will be acceptable to him.

The Mahratta Sardars are very seriously alarmed by some intelligence of the intention of Zaman Shah to come into Hindostan this year. A Vakeel from him with credentials to our Government, the Vizier and the Mahratta Government, arrived at Delhi on his way to Lakhwa Dada's camp, but I am not yet informed of the nature of his mission or of the grounds on which the Mahrattas have formed their apprehensions. When I can ascertain these points I shall communicate them officially to the Governor General.

[Notes—**Zeb-un-nisa**, the Muslim name of Begam Samru. Son-in-law means step-son, by another wife of her husband Walter Reinhard.]

No. 207 (after No. 59)—Zaman Shah's expected invasion. British policy for guarding Oudh; defensive alliance with the Marathas not desirable, as of little practical value. News of the Panjab fighting. Zaman Shah in Lahore.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 19th January 1797.

I have the honor to forward herewith copies of intelligence received this day, from Delhi and Jaypore.

The apology of the Mutasaddy at the latter place, for mentioning the suspicion reported of the Nabob Vizier, will be mine for transmitting it to you. I cannot entertain a doubt of his Excellency's fidelity and attachment to the Company. But I have heard that Jay Copal, the

person whom he has deputed to Zaman Shah's Camp, has everywhere given out, that his mission from his master is to bring the Shah into Hindostan.

An agent from Chitto Bapoo the Marratta General is on his way to me. I expect to learn from him the ultimate resolution of his principal in the event of Zaman Shah's coming into Hindostan.

I have also just received a letter from Chitto Bapoo in which he declares his determination to make all the opposition in his power to the threatened invasion, but confesses his doubt of success unless supported by the Company and the Vizier. He endeavours to persuade me that our tranquillity is equally menaced with that of the Mahrattas, though more remotely by the Shah's designs, and urges the good policy of our joining him with a strong force in the neighbourhood of Delhi.

I am in hopes that your instructions applicable to the present situation and appearance of affairs and adopted to the probable effects of the Abdaly invasion, will soon arrive in consequence of the late intelligence transmitted to you, and authorize me to speak decisively in answer to the Mahratta General. In the meantime, I will encourage him to rely on his own force, aided by the countenance which it will receive from the assembling of our troops on the Vizier's frontier, for repelling the immediate attack upon him.

Although apprehensive of the danger to which the Vizier's Dominions would be exposed, by the establishment of the Abdalies and by the encouragement which his success would give to the disaffected and licentious, and although a junction of our force with that of the Mahrattas appears to me the most eligible means within our reach, to prevent the one and check the other, I have great hesitation in suggesting offensive operations in concert with that people, arising from my opinion of their natural character, though I have little doubt, that such concert would act with good faith and energy.

Enclosures

No. 207A—

News-letter from Jaipur, 14th January 1797.

It is Zaman Shaw's design to possess himself of the throne of Hindostan and to fight with the English, and his army has reached the Shahdera of Lahore and thence proceeded onwards. In the city of Jeypur it is also rumoured and even in the presence of the Maharajah several persons have declared that Zaman Shaw is coming in consequence of an invitation from the Nawab Vizier, who is at heart estranged from the English; whether the above be true or false God knows, but in communicating it I have only done my duty.

No. 207B—

News-letter from Delhi, 20th January, 1797.

Letters from Patiala dated 16th Rajab, mentioned that the front of the left wing (Chaparwal) having reached Amritsar, skirmish arose between that body and the Sikhs who were embodied at that place, and that on both sides many were killed and wounded till the Sikhs alighting from their horses engaged the enemy in close fight with sword and spear, which shock these last being unable to withstand they fled, the Sikhs following to near Lahore where they desisted from pursuit, and thence they returned to their forts near Amritsar ; I will communicate any new particulars I may learn.

[**Chappar** is an Afghan word, meaning a foray ; **Chappar-wal**, a body of cavalry sent ahead to conduct a raid.]

No. 207C—

News-letter from Jaipur, 21st January 1797.

I understand from some bankers that near 50,000 Sikhs being embodied in Amritsar, the Shaw's army went thither and engaged them ; many of the Sikhs fell as well as 4,00 Durrany horsemen, the Sikhs at length unable to maintain the fight fled and turned towards Qasur, the Shaw's troops pursuing. The Shaw had made his arrangements in Amritsar, but one fort still held out against him. He was himself in Lahore where the inhabitants were in the enjoyment of security and they had presented to him as a *nazarana* a list of sums amounting to a lac of rupees. This was accepted, and *Shawl* (a piece) bestowed on Chowdries and encouragement was held forth.

No. 207D—

From Syal Ræee Khan, Delhi, 22nd January 1797.

Zaman Shaw is still in Lahore engaged in establishing himself in the place and extirpating the Sikhs. Yesterday arrived an *arzee* for Mirza Akbar Shaw from the Khwaja-sara [eunuch] Yusuf Ali Khan who is with the Shaw's army. Its contents were only a notification that shortly an ambassador would be sent by the Shaw to Delhi.

No. 207E—

News-letter from Delhi, 22nd January 1797.

Lahore news-papers down to the 14th of Rajab (13th January) have arrived, purporting that the Shaw was still in Lahore where he was repairing the fort, and he had ordered Sher Mohammad Khan to assemble the armourers of the army and city and to bid them make with speed 500 new wall pieces as well as artillery for the field. This was accordingly doing. Letters had been sent to Manzoor Khan Subahdar of Mooltan requiring his attendance with 10,000 horsemen, 2,000 camels and his treasury, and to Bahawal Khan of Daud Pootri, Meer Fattch Aly Khan

Lati and the Karooruyeh Sardars, summoning them also. The *Khye Lashkar* (foragers) was, agreeably to orders, about to pass on to this side of Lahore. It was rumoured that Mirza Ahsan Bakht would reach Lahore on the 1st of Shaban, after which on the 11th of the same month the army would move onwards this way. Near 6,000 or 7,000 Sikh *Khosh-aspa* horse men (each man riding an horse belonging to himself), and 1,000 Akal Boongeeah Foot (a sort of [monk] soldiers and very war-like) remain all day armed and on the watch in a fort near Amrutsar.

No. 203 (after No. 66)—Marathas try to ensure British alliance against Zaman Shah. Rumours about Abdali policy.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 21st February 1797.

The Vakeel dispatched to me by Chitto Bapoo the Mahratta General is arrived. The principal object of his mission is to enforce by argument, the proposition offered by his principal for a junction of our force with his on the west of the Jamuna to oppose the entrance of the Abdalies into Hindostan.

The stress of the Vakeel's reasoning is the danger to which the Vizier will be exposed from the designs of the Shah Durany and his greater ability to execute them if the Mahrattas should be compelled to retreat.

And to persuade me of the Shah's views being ultimately hostile to the Vizier and to the Company as connected with him, he asserts that the Abdaly Prince has been excited to invade Hindostan by Morad Shah the sovereign of Balkh and Bokhara, and by Mahomed Khan Kajar, who governs the eastern provinces of Persia, for the express purpose of restoring the Musalman Power and religion depressed by the infidel usurpation of the Mogul Empire. That these princes have assured Zaman Shah, they will maintain the tranquillity of his country during his absence, and that the former has furnished him with an aid of 12,000 Arbees.

This Vakeel, who is a Musalman and an intimate acquaintance of the Kabool Ambassador at the Mahratta Durbar, assures me that he has frequently heard the latter say that a correspondence subsists between his master and Tippoo, but without any mention of Tippoo having suggested or given any pecuniary aid to the Shah's present expedition.

The Mahratta army is on its march to Agra, which place is appointed for the general rendezvous of the force to act in the field against the Shah,

and where Chittoo Bapoo informs me that he will remain until he can be advised of your final resolve.

I have desired the Vakeel to wait until you are pleased to inform me of your determination, which I presume will be formed on a disclosure of Zaman Shah's real views, and which will not be long in suspense.

The intelligence of which I have the honor to enclose a copy is entitled to some credit from being circumstantial. But if true is probably of little importance, that contained in the Delhi ordinary newspaper I regard as a mere fabrication of the Mahratta Government in that city.

The reports which have prevailed for some days past of Zaman Shah having withdrawn his army from Lahore and moved to westward are confirmed by various accounts from that City direct, as well as from Amritsar and Patiala.

From those which I have received I select for your information as of the greatest authority, the enclosed copy of letter which the Mahratta Vakeel with me has received from his brother at Delhi, to whom the original is written by a friend and correspondent in the Shah's camp, who is preceptor to the sons of Sher Mahommed Khan the Vizier.

A few days will determine whether the Shah is actually compelled to retreat or has only repassed the Ravi as a feint to draw the Sikhs into the open country.

No. 209 (after No. 61)—Zaman Shah's movements. Intrigues of the Delhi Court.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Lucknow, 18th May 1797.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of intelligence transmitted to me by Kamgar Khan and which he reports to have received from Gholam Mahommed Khan, Zaman Shah's Vakeel, who is still at Delhi, accompanied by a declaration on oath that the Shah had determined to renew his invasion of the Panjab in person and to prosecute his original design on Hindostan.

Many accounts concur in the circumstance of a force being left on this side of the Attock [river] by Zaman Shah, but it does not seem considerable

enough to make new acquisitions, or to advance so far as the Jhilara, as stated in the enclosed report.

A confidential servant of the Begam Sahiba Mahal, widow of [Emperor] Mahomad Shah, who resides on the part of that lady at Cabul informs her, that the real cause of Zaman Shah's retreat from Lahore was an irruption of Usbeg Tartars into his provinces for the purpose of supporting the interest of his brother Mahmood Shah, but they neither committed any depredations, nor disturbed the peace of the country, and Mahmood on his brother's return to Cabul threw himself upon his mercy, and protested that his view was to protect and not to attack the Shah's Dominions during his absence. He was pardoned, received into favor, and is to be established in the government of the Panjab when it shall be reduced to the Shah's obedience.

Of the truth of this relation I do not pretend to judge, but as an opinion is generally entertained of Zaman Shah's firm resolution to invade Hindostan at his first leisure, it may not be useless to collect all the intelligence which can be obtained from time to time of his actual situation and apparent intentions.

No. 210 (after No. 62)—Dr. Alexander Fraser permitted to treat Zalim Singh of Kota.

FROM—WM. PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, August 1797.

Rajah Zalim Singh* who is the Administrator of the Raj of Kota, of which his nephew, a prince of weak intellect, is sovereign, desires me to solicit your permission to Mr. Alexander Fraser to attend him for the cure of a disorder under which he labors and in which he has found no relief from the native physicians.

Mr. Fraser some time since when attached to an escort with Captain Murray, had an opportunity of giving his assistance to Zalim Singh with great effect, which has given the Rajah great confidence in his skill and attention.

Rajah Zalim Singh possesses the highest reputation for wisdom and justice, and Captain Murray and myself have experienced the utmost kindness and hospitality from him in travelling through his country.

Mr. Fraser is, I understand, stationed at Chunar Hospital.

Resolved (by the Governor General in Council) that Mr. Alexander Fraser be ordered, provided his services at his station can be dispensed with, to attend on Rajah Zalim Singh and that the necessary orders in consequence be issued from the Military Department.

No. 211 (after No. 210)—Captain Paris Bradshaw officiates as Resident with Sindhia vice Palmer.

FROM—WM. PALMER,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp, 31st October 1797.

The Residency with Daulat Row Sindia being vacant by the resignation of Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts, and no assistant appointed to it, nor any person authorised by Government to take charge of the office on my departure for Poona, I have delivered over to Captain Bradshaw, Commanding Officer of the Resident's Guard, the books and other documents appertaining to the Residency, and have instructed him to apply for your sanction and commands, to pay the establishment of it, and for conducting the intercourse between your Government and the Native Courts.

No. 212 (after No. 64)—Civil War in Bhopal; Bala Rao and Raghuji Bhosle hired by the opposite parties. News of Daulat Rao Sindhia's intentions and orders to his northern agents.

FROM—P. BRADSHAW,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 2nd March 1798.

Since I had the honor to address you under date 27th ultimo I have received from the camp of Jaggojee further intelligence regarding Bala Row, and his letter from Bhopal. My information is different in dates which are some times purposely withheld, and are not commonly communicated with willingness on occasions of the nature.

Mohammad Murid Khan, Dewan to Hyat Mohammed, possessor of the district of Bhopal; had in concert with other Afghans entered into a treasonable design of seizing upon that Government. With this view he gave Bala Row a sum of money for his assistance. Bala Row receiving the

offer assembled 3 or 4,000 horse and foot, with which he contrived to make himself master of the city and one of its forts. Gole Khan at the head of the Afghans attached to their hereditary Chief, joined by others of the same tribe in that quarter, and assisted by the troops of Ragojee Bhosla who marched to their aid in consideration of some pecuniary promises, retook the city. The party of Bala Row being considerably outnumbered retired to the fort, in which they were attacked by Gole Khan.

Bala Row seeing that if he continued in the fort he must be surrounded and taken, therefore, leaving his adherents to defend the place, he made his escape through a window and with two horsemen fled to Sironj. From this he proceeded with a party of horse and reached the Camp of Lackwadada with thirty-three attendants.

Relating this occurrence to the deputies of Sindia, he pressed them to march with their whole force to support the two [allies, or] to detach with him 2,000 horse and two battalions with which he declared himself able to retake the city. Mohamad Mureed Khan, accompanied Bala Rao and engages to defray the expences of the force sent with him on this service.

I am unable to state in particulars what determination Jaggoojee and Lakhwa Dada have made on this representation, but I learn the occurrence (*sic*) is that they have, very little objection to it.

By the channel through which I obtain the foregoing incident I am assured that Daulat Rao Sindia has required the personal attendance at Poona of Lackwa Dada and Ambajee. The summons has occasioned them some uneasiness, and they seem undetermined whether immediately to obey or evade it.

It is asserted they have written to Mr. Perron to take what money he could get from the Rajah of Jaynagar and accompany them with 4 battalions. In Daulat Row's letter to them he is represented to observe that as he himself is about to be engaged in an undertaking of importance, he will require their presence at Poona to conduct his affairs with the Peshwa's Government in his absence. Lackwa Dada and Jaggoojee after much consideration on the subject, and consultation with Imam Bakhsh Khan, who has a large share of their confidence, return for answer, that at present engaged in hostilities as they are with the Sikhs and the Rajah of Jaynagar, it would be of imminent detriment to the affairs of their master should they by a ready compliance with his order leave his Government here exposed without a head.

They have in the meantime agreed among themselves that if Daulat Rao Sindia's reply to their letter should persist in requiring their departure to Poona, to send Jaggoojee to the Deccan and to leave his son under the

care of Luckwadada, to fill his place. These two have called on Ambajee to join them, who is encamped at about 30 kos distance from them.

In the newspaper from Maheshwār it is mentioned that the Vakeel of Mooree Bai in the Camp of Daulat Row writes to his principal that Daulat Row had ordered his tents to be pitched on the road to Hyderabad, and that it is in contemplation to send Gopal Row Bhow and Narain Row Bakshee, with an army into the country of the Nizam, or that Dowlat Row himself should take with him one of the sons of Raghunath Rao and march in person there, making use of the Peshwa's authority as a sanction for his actions.

This instant the Poona Dak brings me the accompanying from Bombay to your address.

P.S.—His Excellency the Commander in Chief returned from this station yesterday evening.

No. 213 (after No. 212)—News from the South. War between the Jaipur general and George Thomas.

FROM—P. BRADSHAW,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 7th March 1798.

Two *Kharitas* to your address from the Peshwa and Daulat Row Sindia coming by the Poona post which reached this yesterday, were destroyed on the way by a party of Grasias, who plundered and killed the *harkara* that brought them. The seals and linen bases which enclosed them together with the English letters which composed the packet, on its arrival here were recovered; but whether it consisted of more or whether the more personal property of the *harkara* was the only motive of depriving him of life, I am unable to discover. It is observable that the seals are unbroken and that the act was committed in the camp (?) of Casi Row Holkar near Indor. With the seals and leaves. I have the honour to forward the letter from the Mutasaddi of Ujjain announcing the accident [which] appears to have happened on the 24th ultimo.

The most important article of the late Poona intelligence is the arrival of a Vakeel from Tipoo at the Durbar of Daulat Row Sindia, though he had not then, on the 16th ultimo, been formally received.

Between the troops of Jaynagar, opposed by the combined parties of the Mahratta and Mr. Thomas, no settlement has yet been effected, and

both armies are still encamped with the same hostile appearance and in the same quarter as they were before the late engagement.

Jaggoojee and Lackwa Dada are marching in force to Bhopal on the occasion I had the honor to state in my last address.

By the mail of the date from the west I received a letter from Colonel Palmer of the 23 ultimo, beyond Burhanpore and the accompanying to your address from the Assistant at Poona which I have the honour to forward.

No. 214 (after No. 213)—Daulat Rao arrests Narayan Rao Bakhshes.
Movements of Lakhwa Dada and Jagu Bapu.
News of Bhopal and Jaipur wars.

FROM—P. BRADSHAW,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 20th March 1798.

Since I had the honour to address you on the 7th instant the ordinary channel of intelligence has brought little matter deserving public notice to the present date.

To-day I have a few lines from the news-writer at Ujjain which informed me that a letter under the usual cover of dispatch had passed that place from Poona for Jaggoo Bapoo and Lackwa Dada, and that he had learned it was a notification to his Deputies in Hindostan from Dowlat Rao of his having arrested the person of Narain Rao Bakshee. If it be true, I shall probably have it confirmed by to-morrow's post; but as the event is likely to have a material effect on the affairs of Dowlat Rao in this quarter, I feel that my duty will justify me thus early submitting it to you in its present shape.

Narain Rao Bakshee is nephew to Jaggoojee, and had a large share in the favor of his prince. His sudden fall and confinement, added to the requisition of the personal attendance at Poona of Ambajee and Lackwa Dada, will doubtless be discouraging to the Marhatta views on Bhopal against which place Jaggoojee and the latter Sardar are advanced as far as the town of Kemelah [Khimlasa].

In regard to Bhopal I beg leave to observe the difference in the account of that affair [between] that stated at the Darbar of Dowlat Rao, and that which I had the honour to forward in my address of the 2nd instan'.

Mureed Khan, instead of being opposed in any treasonable designs of his, is supposed to be the injured party and Gole Khan and others who have called in the assistance of the troops of Berar, are charged with subverting his authority and being enemies to their prince Hayat Mohammad Khan.

Mohammad after having in vain attempted to intimidate the Jaynagar Rajah into any terms of contribution, at length quit his position and retreated from the territories he had invaded. He though joined with a few Mahratta troops at first, was after his late engagement unsupported with any fresh succours by the Marhatta Chiefs, while the army under [Rodoji] Row Khawas was augmenting by supplies from the other Chiefs of Rajpootana. A free-booter himself, and more an ally than in the service of the Marhattas, who to prevent him making any settlement within their boundaries encouraged him to the plunder of others, he probably saw his danger in time and therefore retreated; conscious his defeat would be little less desirable to the Marhattas than any victory which would not outbalance the advantages they would experience from his total overthrow.

No. 215 (after No. 65)—Collins appointed Resident with Daulat Rao Sindhia and Bradshaw Assistant Resident.

FROM—PARIS BRADSHAW, ASST. TO RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA,

TO—JOHN STRACHEY, ESQ., SUB-SECRETARY.

Fathgarh, 25th March 1798.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant conveying to me the commands of the Governor General that he has been pleased to appoint me Assistant to the Resident with Dawlat Rao Sindia from that date.

You will please to acquaint the Board that I obey its nomination with every token of gratitude and respect, and that by my best endeavours to render myself useful I hope to merit the distinction it has conferred.

I am honoured by the receipt of instructions of the Governor General in Council communicated in your letter of the 5th instant apprizing me of the appointment of Lieut. Colonel Collins to the Residency at the Court of Dawlat Rao Sindia, and directing me to deliver over to his charge the official records of that department, in obedience to which I have to express my compliance with promptitude and respect.

N^o. 216 (after No. 64)—Daulat Rao Sindhia imprisons Lakhwa and Jaguji and appoints Ambaji his Deputy in Hindustan.

FROM—P. BRADSHAW,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 23rd March 1798.

The intelligence of the imprisonment of Narain Rao Bakhshée which I had the honour in my address under date the 20th instant to convey on the authority of the *akhbar-navis* of Ujjain is confirmed by the particular mention of the same in the news-paper of the Durbar of Daulat Rao Sindia, as well as by that of the Deputies of Sindia which I have the honour herewith to enclose. This last has just reached me under a red cover announcing the consequence here of the occurrence at Poona, by the imprisonment of Jaggoojee and Lackwa Dada and the transfer of their authority for the present to Ambajee in conjunction with the Sardars who effected their seizure. Imam Bakhsh Khan and Balwant Rao the Diwan of Lackwa Dada with one or two others of lesser note, were also made prisoners at the same time. The camp of Lackwa Dada was near the greater Sagar and that of Ambajee in the neighbourhood of Kalpi, not less than one hundred *kos* asunder. The parties under restraint are ordered to be escorted to Poona, which seems to give a colour to the circumspection manifested by Jaggoo Bapoo and Lackwa Dada on the summons some short time since sent them to repair to the presence of their Chief. There is as yet no crime alleged against them, nor has any act of theirs been made known as having drawn for them public censure.

A prohibition was laid on the dispatch of all *daks* from Daulat Rao's camp after the arrest of Narain Rao, and was not taken off until the 3rd day after that event.

Gopal Rao's restoration to the confidence of his master which has followed the downfall of the Bakhshée, promises a favourable turn of the affairs of Nana Farnavees. In Hindoostan it may be productive of the succession of Ambajee to the delegated power of Sindia in this part of his Empire, as it is a fact that he had proposed to remit several lacs of rupees more to Poona, than was collected by the late deputies on the condition of the sole management of the Government in this quarter being vested in him.

No. 217 (after No. 216)—Disorder, mutiny and alarm among the ministers and the army in consequence of Daulat Rao Sindhia's imprisonment of Lakhwa Dada, Jagu Bapu and some other high officials. Fighting in Bhopal and Saharanpur. Kabul news.

FROM—P. BRADSHAW,

TO—SIR A. CLARKE, K.B., ACTING GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Fathgarh, 5th April 1798.

Having had the honour in my public address of the 23rd ultimo, to announce intelligence of the execution of the orders of Daulat Row Sindia against the persons of the two representatives of his power in this part of his Dominions on the 15th of the same month, I should have waited in respectful expectation, as in the channel of transmission, the arrival of your letters apprising his Majesty Shah Alam and the Marhatta Sardars of your accession to the Supreme Government, availing myself by the acknowledgments of their receipt of the opportunity it would afford me to present you my humble congratulations on that event. But the late harsh proceedings of Sindia both here and in the Deccan happen to require not less that I should acquaint you, they have produced no consequences of immediate political importance to your Government, than on [?] the contrary, gratify me with the occasion to impress my participation in the general satisfaction on your succession.

To the frequency of such changes of fortune it is perhaps owing more than to any spirit of well regulated subordination that the affairs of Sindia in Hindostan have experienced such little disturbance in the sudden deposition and confinement of his naibs and their dependents. Hardly any interruption of public business has followed and the expedition against Bhopal which was going forward under Jaguji and Lackwa Dada, instead of suffering any suspension by their arrest, has been proceeding briskly, so that the opposing parties already met in action. The newspaper accounts which are not always to be trusted, mention the Afghans of that district to have checked the Mahrattas with a loss to the latter, in wounded and slain, of near 300 men. This has occasioned us relaxation in fresh preparations in support of their views against that place.

Madho Row Fálkē, the Nazim of Saharanpur, on hearing of the imprisonment of the deputies, had the persons of the two chief agents of Jagoojee with him secured. Both of them, Nana Dewan and Antaji Pant Bakhshē, are persons of some note. The former is distinguished for some signal advantage over the Sikhs gained in a contest with them about * * months since. At present the Maratha force in that quarter is unable to make head against the Sikhs who have compelled it to fall backo Saharanpoor

and might oblige it altogether to quit that quarter if the distracted state of the Punjab, harassed by the dissensions of its numerous petty chiefs, did not furnish sufficient employment for them in their own territories.

Nathoo Ram, the Munshee and Vakeel of Lackwa Dada (who is since a few days arrived from Lucknow) came to visit me yesterday. His object is to obtain from the Company's Government its protection by a residence at Benares for the family of the principal man living at Bethoor in the dominions of the Vizier. But he has not yet made a public claim of asylum in their behalf perhaps designing first to discover what success an application would be likely to meet with from your Government by what he might collect from the impression which this private intimation should make.

Lackwa Dada is well known to be attached to the English and Colonel Palmer who had long known him, had more than once stated this favourable disposition in him to the late Governor General as a ground for some indulgences he solicited.

In the course of conversation, Nathoo Ram assured me that Ambajee by no means considered himself as exempted on this occasion which has affected the liberty of so many of the old servants of Sindia. He observed that this letter from Poona transferring to Ambaji the chief temporary authority here, might be meant to facilitate his ruin by rendering him less circumspect, as he who in relation to Sindia, stood in the predicament of [equality ?] with the Vizier, having besides in possession the impregnable-deemed fortresses of Gualior, Narwar, and Chitor-garh, could not at this critical time be openly proceeded against. At the same meeting he also gave me to understand, that the Killadar of Agra would not unconditionally yield up that fort and subject himself to similar treatment with Jaggojee and Lackwa Dada, if he could gain any certainty of an honourable relinquishment by a show of opposition. This person, Bisram Bhow, is the younger brother of Balooba Tantia, and perhaps not short of 60 years of age. From the rigour with which his brother is treated at Poona, he naturally expects the same degree to be reserved for him, should he not escape the confinement which he foresees to be intended for him.

The newspaper relation from Poona of the universal dissatisfaction which roused the army of Dowlat Row, in the ostensible call for their arrears of pay, to demand the dismissal of his new ministers and to mutter something still more important, bore for some days a very serious appearance on this side; as on the occasion of the deceit practised against Nana he had recourse to the advantage of native faith in the European character, and through the medium of his European officers quelled the

mutinous spirit of his troops by an immediate payment of 32 lacks of rupees.

But I will forbear taking up more of your time on the vague ground of Durbar intelligence, while the true statement may have already reached you from Poona.

I have only to observe that the surmise that Dowlat Row's person was in danger from the fear, indignation and disgust which his late measures created in his Deccan troops, did not seem groundless to those acquainted with the transactions of that quarter.

I have intelligence of a month and 8 days back from Cabul which mentions that Zaman Shah was at that Capital and that disturbance was likely to occur in the northwest quarter, which might oblige his Majesty to lead an expedition that way. His brother Mahmood is supposed to have obtained the assistance of the King of Turan, and to meditate the recovery of his province of Herat.

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